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Community Pride Reporter

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Community Pride Reporter

FREE

The newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine and New Hampshire.

VOL. 3, Number 7

February - March, 1996

Anti-Gay Bill Withdrawn!

MLGPA reports a victory for the "Forces of Light"

by Karen Geraghty

With pressure from MLGPA, coalition partners, and elected officials, Senator Georgette Berube (D-Lewiston) has withdrawn her anti-gay bill from this legislative session.

In her hometown paper, the Lewiston Sun-Journal, Berube said legislators lacked time in a short session to fully debate the measure which sought to ban same-gender marriage and to limit protection from discrimination for people who report hate crimes. It was widely reported that this was a "gay

rights" bill, even though gay people were afforded absolutely no protections in this measure.

Senator Berube also worried that the tone of the debate would have turned nasty. "We could not have assured that the tone of the debate would have remained rational," she said.

Berube reported that she was asked by some senators and representatives to withdraw the bill so they wouldn't have to vote on it in an election year. She said that those legislators favored her measure but would vote against it so as not to incur the wrath of the gay community and our liberal supporters.

She also stated that although she cannot run again because of term limits, a legislator who hopes to be re-elected is planning to introduce this measure next year.

Thank you to all the people who wrote letters, made phone calls, sent e-mails, or renewed your MLGPA membership. Your help made this happen in one way or another!

The road map to next years defeat of this bill seems fairly clear. We have

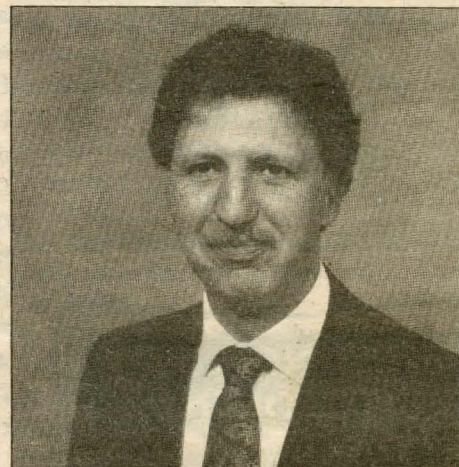
Rural Concerns Consortium provides forum for NH activists

by Suzanne Pyle, Co-editor, NH Bureau

Is there gay life outside of Boston? Is there some semblance of gay community north of Nashua, or west of Portsmouth?

In Boston and other New England cities, such as, Providence, or Hartford, the gay community has blossomed with many resources available to gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered city dwellers. There are cable television networks, radio shows, and several newspapers to choose from to help you find out what's going on in the community. There are established community centers, and local gay/lesbian, bisexual or transgendered organizations that have been growing strong, providing a multitude of support groups, services, legal advocacy, educational materials and political muscle in the hot arena of equal rights.

But what about gay New Hampshire? How does the gay rural community survive with fewer resources, less ways to communicate and congregate. These are the kind of questions Jim Bretz and Flora Piterak, seasoned grass roots political activists, have asked themselves



Jim Bretz, NH Activist

recently. And the answer was conceived in the formation of the Rural Concerns Consortium.

Because the needs of rural gay communities are unique and often self-defined, the solutions that urban organizers might suggest just don't fit. The exhortation to use corporate sponsorships, local newspapers, a television station, or supportive local organizations to help raise money or communicate rural gay issues can be a Herculean task for

See RURAL CONCERNS, page 9



Karen Geraghty, MLGPA President

See ANTI-GAY, page 4

Section 17-5: If you cruise it, you could lose it

by David O. Cook

Get lost in a Portland neighborhood looking for an unfamiliar address and you may find yourself at the receiving end of a \$100 fine for "cruising." But only if the area you are "in or around" is a posted "no cruising area" and you have passed a traffic control point three or more times within a 2-hour period. Such areas would likely include the Western Prom and Parkside at least. Repeat offenders would be subject to an escalating fine scale, paying as much as \$500 per offense starting with the third offense.

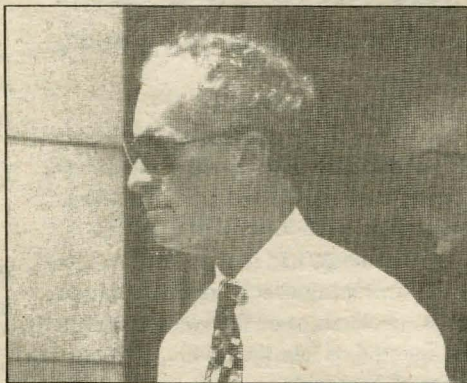
This new reality is predicated on final passage of Portland city ordinance Section 17-5 which reads, in part, "No person shall drive or permit a motor vehicle under that person's care, custody, or control to be driven past a traffic control point three (3) times within a two-hour period in or around a posted "no cruising" area."

The ordinance was sent to the full Portland City Council by the Public Safety Committee on February 6, but

without recommendation, a fact that may signify a wait-and-see attitude on the part of the Committee, which usually provides some indication of the degree and nature of its consensus.

Section 17-5 may have serious logistical flaws. Former Portland Mayor Ann Pringle believes that it will be a nightmare to enforce and agrees with the concern that the small number of times you need to circle a given point in order

See CRUISING, page 2



Portland's Police Chief, Michael Chitwood: May need to enforce an ordinance vs. letter writing.

Expanded A & E section: Catie Curtis releases her second album, "Truth from Lies"

by Aimsel Ponti

Yet another Maine singer/songwriter is making quite a name for herself in both women's music and folk music circles. With the release of "Truth from Lies," Catie Curtis' fan base is becoming national. And with her recent performance at the Stone Coast Brewing Company here in Portland, that fan base includes many Mainers.

While growing up in rural Southern Maine and then attending Rhode Island's Brown University, music was always present in her life even though sports, particularly basketball, were her focus in high school. She did, however, write her first songs during her high school years.

Upon arrival at Rhode Island's Brown University, Curtis became part of the singer-songwriting culture as well as maintaining a love for athletics. A few years later, Curtis came to the crossroads of graduation and decided to pursue music.

This decision brought Curtis to San Francisco where she was able to support herself as a waitress and still have plenty of time to concentrate on music.



Curtis' next home base was Boston where she worked as a social worker. It was here that she slowly started to gain respect as a significant songwriter in the city's music scene. In 1991 Catie Curtis independently released the album, "From Years to Hours," with 11 original songs.

Her newest release, "Truth From Lies," was named best folk/acoustic album of 1995 by New England Performer Magazine. Her music can also be found on two of the Putamayo folk music collections, which are superb compilations

See CURTIS, page 23

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CRUISE from page 1

to be subject to fine, is unrealistically small and may lead to unnecessary harassment of people not doing anything wrong. Pringle (a resident of the West End) is also concerned that "No Cruising Area" may become a sort of scarlet letter, thereby damaging a neighborhood's reputation and real estate values.

And Pat Peard, President of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, takes issue with the intent of the ordinance, feeling that it seeks to regulate people's freedom of movement, rather than directly addressing the behavior that is presumably really at issue, namely public sex. Pringle, on the other hand, supports the basic notion that something needs to be done and she cites vociferous complaints by residents of the West End, especially the Western Promenade — complaints both about lights and noise from cruising cars that circle the West End streets especially late at night and also about acts of sex alleged to have been performed within eyeshot of West End resident's homes.

Professor James Roberts, Chairman of the USM Political Science Department, feels that the issue is one of "neighborhood elan or spirit" and that "society has a stake in regulating manifestations of public sexual behavior." Pringle claims that the first paragraph of the new ordinance (quoted above) at least gives the police a standard for gauging who is cruising and who isn't, but she feels that the structure of fines called for in the ordinance would be impractical to implement and might lead (as with other moving violations) to police officers spending long, wasted days in court rooms.

For enforcement purposes, Pringle favors the approach initiated by Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood, and already in use by Portland Police, which entails writing warning letters to people observed by police to be driving in the area in a manner that police suspect may be connected to cruising. She believes that the letters already sent to motorists observed cruising the Western Prom have been successful and that repeat offenders are few.

Chitwood's letter-writing campaign has been controversial, however, and while it may seem more practical to some than the enforcement portion of Section 17-5, others feel that the letters themselves constitute a sort of "warn-

ing from the thought police," since the tactic targets people who have not actually been seen doing anything illegal. The City Council's Public Safety Committee, critical of Chitwood's letter-writing approach, had requested a new ordinance last month. Chief Chitwood could not be reached for comment before this article went to press.

The police letter, as paraphrased



Attorney Pat Peard concerned with harassment of 'particular group . . . whose life style is not approved of.'

in the 2/8/96 issue of Casco Bay Weekly, politely suggests that "the police have been watching you drive through [a neighborhood] and have noticed that your driving patterns, or at least those of the vehicle registered to you, are similar to those of people soliciting prostitutes." The letter then politely expresses the hope that the recipient isn't contemplating any such illegal activity. Some people feel that, according to this same logic, you could station police outside gun merchants and hand each customer a letter saying "your purchasing patterns are similar to those of people committing armed robbery and murder. . ."

Both Peard and Sally Sutton, Executive Director and Peard's colleague at MCLU, feel that laws already on the books can be enforced, rather than creating new ordinances that do not directly deal with the behaviors at issue. Peard is also concerned that the new ordinance may not be enforced even-handedly, which might lead to harassment of a particular group of people whose life-style is not approved of.

Former Mayor Pringle acknowledged an increase in West End cruising activity after the closure of Deering Oaks. When asked if she would favor re-opening Deering Oaks to cruising, she responded that, while she wasn't against the principle of a set-aside area for cruis-

ing, she didn't think it should be such a public place as Deering Oaks or in populated neighborhoods where the activities would "put people at odds with each other." She cited a survey of people's attitudes toward Deering Oaks which indicated that "people are scared to go down there, partly because of the cruising." She also mentioned an incident on the Prom in which a man was seen to be masturbating in a car during daylight hours by an 11-year-old girl and her mother.

In fact, prior to the release of an article by Rick MacPherson last summer in Casco Bay Weekly, which detailed sexual activity inside of Portland porno establishments, there had seemed to be a tacit acceptance that, at least inside of these places, sexual activity would be, if not condoned, then at least tolerated. Once the MacPherson story broke, a flurry of enforcement activity occurred. Shortly after the article appeared, porno establishments were raided and, on a smaller scale, periodic police attention has been paid to these establishments ever since. And, on Thursday, February 8, police issued summons under an anti-obscenity ordinance to the owners of the three porno establishments (and the VideoPort, apparently based on officials viewing a single film from their X-rated section.)

MCLU's Sutton points out that public sexual activity can't be eliminated by intensive enforcement in a particular area — it simply moves somewhere else. This reality is born out by the experience of other cities, where attempts to dislodge cruising activities succeeded only temporarily if at all. In Boston, for example, a section of Marlborough Street, in Boston's famous Back Bay, had its traffic pattern rerouted years ago to put an end to hustling. It sort of worked — the hustlers moved about a 2-minute walk farther south to a less toney neighborhood near the bus terminal.

CPR attempted to reach officials at The AIDS Project to ascertain the effect that escalating public sex enforcement activities might have on safer sex education efforts, but our calls were not returned.

Pringle, Peard, and Sutton believe that there should be much more public debate on this issue. Peard feels that there is a public misconception that this is exclusively a gay issue. And Sutton feels that an acceptance of the reality of public sex, needs to be incorporated in any public debate on the issue. **△△**

MONEY TALK: Can I file form 1040 EZ?



by Peter J. Callnan, CPA

That is a popular question this time of year. Many people presume that because they filed a Form 1040EZ last year they should again this year and it is not always true. An individual's tax situation often changes from one year to the next. It may not be in their best interest to file the Form 1040EZ. Review the following filing

requirements and consider if Form 1040EZ really is best for you.

File Form 1040EZ If:

- * Your filing status is single or married filing jointly with no dependents and you were under age 65 and not blind. (Head of Household cannot use Form 1040EZ)
- * You only had income from wages, salaries, unemployment compensation, tips, taxable scholarships or fellowships and interest income of less than \$400. (No other sources of income)
- * Total taxable income is less than \$50,000.
- * You do not owe any other taxes

(like employment taxes for a household employee or self employment tax).

* You have not received any advance earned income credit payments and you cannot file for the credit with a qualifying child.

* You do not itemize deductions. (It is more beneficial to itemize if it gives you a larger deduction)

* You have no adjustments to income (like an Individual Retirement Account contribution or work related moving expenses).

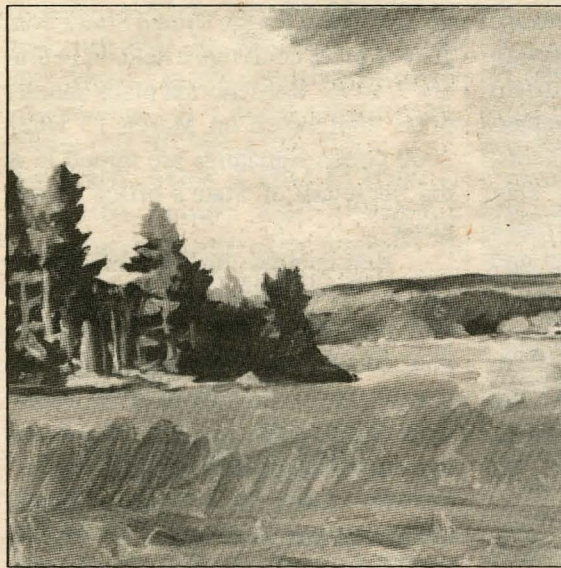
Form 1040EZ is the simplest tax return to fill out because it is short. It is also easy to overlook available deductions with it. If you can take deductions that would reduce your tax liability it may not be the best form to file. Good Luck!

"Spring for Life Art Auction" celebrates its tenth year

March 16 event to benefit The AIDS Project

Portland, ME - "Spring for Life," Maine's largest charity art auction, will mark its tenth year of fund raising for The AIDS Project on March 16, 1996. The annual event has grown to attract some of Maine's most prominent artists as generous contributors and the 1996 "Spring for Life" roster of artists is no exception. Connie Hayes' contribution, "Red Water at Square Pond," appears on the 1996 Spring for Life posters, invitations and catalog cover. Other artists whose works will be auctioned on March 16 to benefit TAP include Alfred "Chip" Chadbourn, David Cedrone, Thomas Connolly and Sarah Elizabeth Look.

A decade of strong support by Maine's artistic community has been matched by growing public participation and support of Spring for Life. Last year's auction drew a record attendance in excess of 800, and raised more than \$74,000 for TAP. The support of major corporate sponsors and hundreds of volunteers also have been instrumental in Spring for Life's growth in the past de-



"Red Water at Square Pond" by Connie Hayes, highlights Art Auction

cade. This year, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine has provided a major grant to support Spring for Life. Other corporate supporters of the 1996 auction include Holiday Inn by the Bay and Maine Street Communications.

Spring for Life continues to find

innovative ways to reach the artistic and general publics. This year's auction goes electronic with the auction catalog accessible on-line at <http://www.maine.com/aidsart>. Low-tech art aficionados can take advantage of special art previews, March 3-14 at Katahdin Restaurant, Perfetto Restaurant and Coffee-by-Design. And, one-of-a-kind tee-shirts, designed and donated by artists, will be sold the day of the auction by raffle and during the live auction.

"The tenth year gives us a chance to reflect on how far Spring for Life has come and the positive impact it has made

in the artistic and AIDS/HIV communities," said Larry Bliss, Chair of the 1996 Spring for Life Committee. "The money raised for TAP clients and services is vital, and just as important is how the auction has managed to bring together a diverse group of people in support of a common cause," added Bliss.

The 1996 Spring for Life Art Auction will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland on Saturday, March 16. The public can preview live and silent auction pieces, free of charge, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay on Friday, March 15, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, and Saturday, March 16, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Doors will reopen at 5:30 PM and general admission, which includes a bidder's number, will be \$10. Tickets may be purchased during preview hours, or at the door. Silent auction bids can be made throughout the day Saturday, with final silent bids tallied at 7:30 PM. The live auction will begin at 8:00 PM in the Grand Ballroom with Tom Saturley of Auction Properties Ltd. officiating as auctioneer.

A festive artist's reception will be held from 6:00 - 7:30 PM on Saturday, featuring complimentary champagne and beverages and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Portland's finest chefs. Tickets for the artists' reception are \$25 per person, which includes admission to the auction, and can be purchased at the door or by calling The AIDS Project at 207/774-6877. ΔΔ

OUT of Town!



by Paul T. Bernard

I had a call one day last week from someone who had seen my article in last month's CPR. He wanted to know

why he should do business with a travel agent. I thought the answer I tried to give him might help other readers.

First of all, I want to acknowledge that, for the most part, there isn't anything I do that you can't do yourself. But at the same time, I want to emphasize exactly what it is that a travel agent does for a client.

1) **TIME** - By utilizing the services of a professional travel agent, you are going to save yourself a lot of time. A travel agent can very quickly put together airline reservations and tickets, car rentals, hotel reservations, vacation packages, cruises, group tours, and more. If you were to attempt this yourself, you could spend hours or days trying to put together a vacation or business trip - because you would have to spend that time making dozens of phone calls. A travel agent can do all this through a computer terminal that is tied into a huge reservation system - being able to access all of the airlines, car rental companies, hotels, and more. The typical vacation or business trip can be put together in about 10 minutes - and all it takes is one phone call to your local travel agent.

2) **KNOWLEDGE** - By utilizing a travel agent, you are able to draw on their professional knowledge and expertise. For instance, a travel agent has

more information available to them about destinations, airlines, special prices, weather, packages, tours, etc. than you as individual. Additionally, most travel agents have traveled extensively and will have first hand knowledge of places they have been and you may be going.

3) **YOUR BEST INTEREST** - A travel agent works for you - not the airlines, car rental companies, hotels, or tour operators. If price is your concern, then a travel agent is your best bet to finding the best deals. Or if quality is your concern, your travel agent can be your best ally. And should you encounter problems with your trip, you have an advocate who knows the ropes on how to correct the situation.

So what does a travel agent cost you? In most cases, absolutely nothing. We are paid a commission by the airlines, hotels, car rental companies, tour operators, cruise lines, etc. In some cases, however, some agencies are charging minimal fees to cover costs for low-commission producing items. However, most agencies also will give you a credit for that fee on a future trip.

Agents also can provide additional services. In my agency, I am able to offer my clients currency/travel checks in foreign currencies, travel insurance, passport and visa applications, and more. In addition, I have access to several Gay/Lesbian travel publications and can provide you with the latest information on your selected destination.

SHORT TAKES

This time of year is popular for travel scam artists. Many people are getting flyers in the mail or phone so-

See OUT, page 6

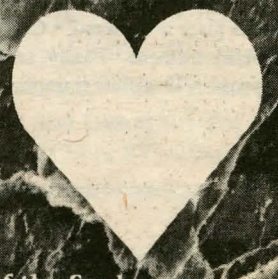
Maine
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Don't Need
Men's
a Reason
Chorus

March 17, 3:00
Olin Arts Center,
Bates College, Lewiston

March 23, 8:00
March 24, 3:00
Portland High School Auditorium

Tickets: \$10.00
Available at: Drop Me A Line,
Amadeus, Bookland-Mallside

World premier: The Inner Room Of the Soul



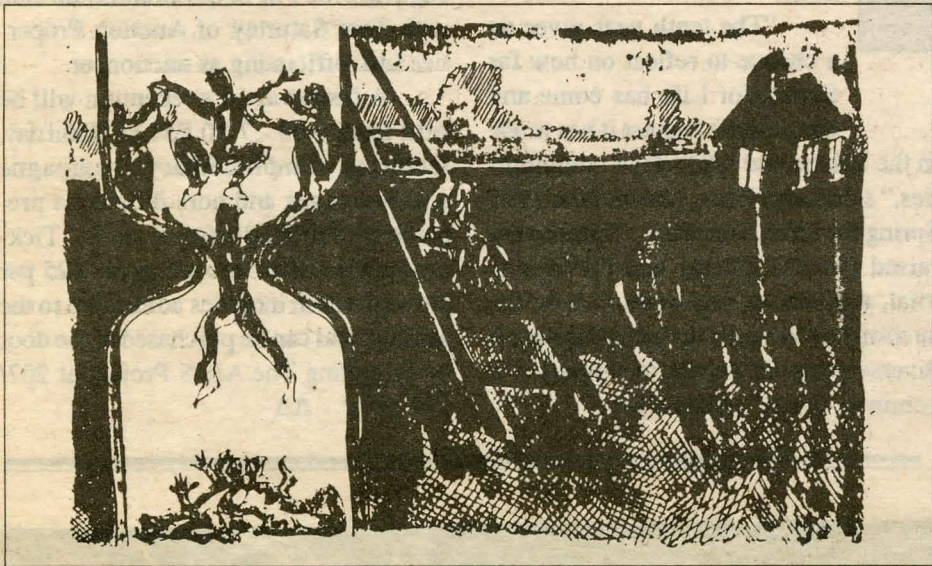
Queer youth: What's happening for them in Maine?

by Chris Milliken

What is the state of queer youth in Maine today? Are adolescents both straight and gay receiving the education they deserve about sexual orientation, diversity, tolerance, and acceptance? In the 90's life holds more promise for the children who know they will develop same-gender relationships. Just twenty years ago, gay youth had no role models in Maine. A sense of isolation, that one is the only sexual minority in the whole school kept, and continues to keep, students from reaching their potential. Today, because of the efforts of

grassroots AIDS educators, (who know that emerging sexually active youth are in a high risk category for contracting HIV) homophobia, diversity in sexual orientation and issues of discrimination are beginning to be discussed in schools, businesses and medical facilities. Gay rights issues are accessible in the news for children to see, and many men and women of Maine are open and out at work, in schools and at play.

Still freedom has not been won. Young people still must choose the closet in order to have access to education and an acceptable social life. As



Art work by Chris Milliken

See QUEER YOUTH, page 5

GOOD COOKIN' KATAHDIN

THE FOOD

Wish we could eat more because everything is so great. • Oysters are worth traveling for! Primo! • Entree servings larger than necessary. • My Dad makes his own ice cream, but Gretchen's is the best! • Best Crab Cakes I ever had. Send me the Recipe! • If there is a heaven, your food will be served there! • The beets as a veggie were a wonderful surprise. • I live for your Lobster Spring Rolls! • The dinners were excellent-Mushroom Ravioli, • Grilled Salmon, and Angel Hair Pasta. • Best Liver and Onions in all of my 49 years! • The Buttermilk biscuits are outstanding! • Like having dinner at Gram's. Loved the potatoes! • The best food we have had on our vacation. • Everything was better than expected. We'll be back!

THE SERVICE

Camille's a class act. Friendly and informative. • Thanks a lot Jim-you were attentive but not obtrusive. • Doodle was very courteous, fast, personable, helpful, and informative about Katahdin, the food, and Maine. • For such a little guy, Gary sure gets around! • It was good to see my old friend John working here. • Meredith was the warmest and friendliest waitress I've ever had. She treated me like a dear friend. • Gloria makes the best martinis in Portland. I love it when she's behind the bar. Michelle's no slouch either. • We love our Robin! • Sarah is the kind of waitress I like. Gracious, informative.

THE ATMOSPHERE

Great atmosphere! Great music! • Wonderful place! We'll tell all of our friends about it! • Nice casual atmosphere. Original and creative, just like the food. • This is a great place for people to chill out. • It's become a regular haunt for us-love the decor. • I'm a collector, and am familiar with many of your salt and pepper shakers. Love the hugging ducks! • Adorable place - love the ladies' restroom! • We stop in here twice a year on our way to Nova Scotia. • It's by far our favorite place in Portland! • Coolest stuff! I could live in this joint. • Nice to see that children are welcomed here. • Funky. Love the Fiesta ware and the artwork. • Good atmosphere. Not too prissy. • This place is terrific. I hope you're here for years to come. We'll be back!

Gretchen

774-1740 • SPRING AND HIGH STREET
MON - THURS 5PM - 10PM • FRI AND SAT 5PM - 11PM

Green Party fields candidate for senate

by Winnie Weir

John Rensenbrink, founding member of the Maine Green Party, announced his candidacy for the United States Senate at a press conference held on February 7, 1996. Rensenbrink plans another press conference on March 15 when 2000 Green signatures are turned in at the Secretary of State's office in Augusta.

Rensenbrink, the first candidate for the Green Party running with full qualified party status, will "run a campaign that addresses the politics of transformation outside the limitations of the Democrats and Republicans, and outside the interests of big money and media hype."

He called for a vigorous public debate on the connection between a strong economy and a strong environment. Said Rensenbrink, "Don't eat the seed corn' will be a rallying cry in my

Greens are the citizens' best hope to give them that call," concludes the statement.

Additional issues Rensenbrink plans to address are the need to strengthen communities in Maine, in the nation and abroad, to open up the political system and the need to live up to Maine's core value of "live and let live." "I will carry these issues right into the Senate of the United States and try to open some doors and windows to the real world," said Resenbrink.

The 68 year-old Resenbrink was born on a dairy farm in Minnesota to Dutch immigrant parents. He worked the farm after his father's death and took correspondence courses to finish high school. His college education spans Calvin College in Michigan, the University of Michigan for his MA, the University of Amsterdam as a Fullbright scholar, and University of Chicago



Green Party candidate for Senate, John Rensenbrink with his wife, Carla

campaign." In other words, if you clear-cut and over-cut, you can't expect to have a forest that will produce for you. You can't overfish forever and expect to have any fish at all. According to Resenbrink's Issues Sheet, the balance between economy and ecology is going to be his number one issue. "No matter how rich you are, you can't go on blighting whole communities and eco-systems without pulling the rug of prosperity out from everyone, including you own sons and daughters," says his Issue Sheet. "The present leadership of the country in both parties need a wake-up call.

where he received his Ph.D in Political Science in 1956. He has taught at Coe College, Iowa, Williams College in Massachusetts and Bowdoin College, Maine since 1962, where he has combined scholarship and activism. He is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Government and Legal Studies at Bowdoin.

"This race is wide open," said Rensenbrink. "The addition of Ross Perot's party and the Greens to the Senate campaign finally gives voters a real choice between four party candidates. Candidates can run on the issues." ΔΔ

ANTI-GAY from page 1

to get busy! Our goal as a community is to make sure that we elect people to the 118th Legislature who will sign on to support an anti-discrimination bill, and work very hard to defeat any and all anti-gay measures.

So who is running in your district? What is their stand on civil rights? Do they need help with their campaign? You may know the answers to these questions. If not, plenty of help is available. Call the "CLEAN THE HOUSE and SENATE" Campaign at 1-800-556-5472. This is a campaign sponsored by the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. We have an up-to-date database that has this information and lots more. We can run lists by county, district, or party affiliation. We can tell you how the candidates feel about civil

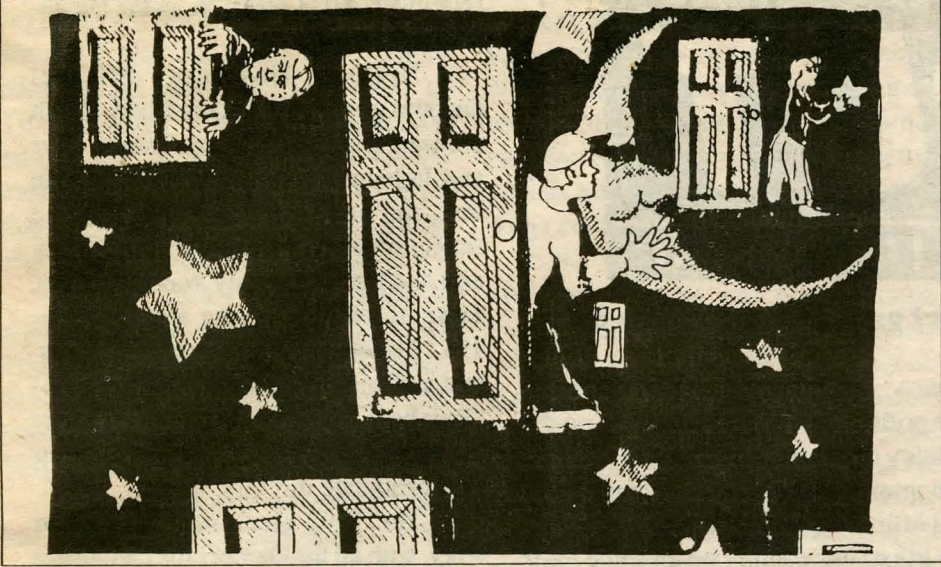
rights and how they have voted in the past.

We can connect you with the people in your town who would like to represent you in Augusta. After meeting them, you can judge whether or not you will get behind their candidacy and become their most treasured campaign volunteer.

It is vital for us to become involved in who is sent to Augusta next year. Governor King has pledged his support for a civil rights bill. After eight years of "jockeying" with McKernan, Governor King's support is wonderful, but it will be for naught if we don't have elected officials who will vote for an anti-discrimination bill.

Please call 1-800-55-MLGPA today so that we can send you the information you need to "CLEAN THE HOUSE and SENATE." ΔΔ

QUEER YOUTH from page 4



Art work by Chris Milliken

we all know "adolescence is about fitting in." Children who know they are gay or lesbian often go to great lengths to hide their sexuality in order to fit in socially. By doing so they stand a greater chance of achieving academically and athletically, two rights of passage that insure success as an adult in our culture.

Paradoxically, queer youth (those children who identify as gay or lesbian or are too feminine or masculine for what is accepted as normal) most often drop out of school because of the lack of attention they receive in the system. Often this is coupled with the harassment they get from peers who struggle for self acceptance and who subsequently learn the games of marginalization and homophobia. Youth who are marginalized because of sexual identity or labelling are more prone to alcohol and drug abuse, suicidal tendencies, suicide, and other psycho/social dysfunctions, according to statistics gathered by the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other national and local organizations.

Schools and social service organizations are beginning to dialogue with straight and gay youth as well as teachers, to create a safe place for all students so they can grow into productive healthy adults.

OUTRIGHT, a Portland based youth support group organized by Cathy Kidman, a local AIDS activist and educator, offers affirmation, outreach and social activities to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth (minors ages 13 to 22). OUTRIGHT grew from what Portland AIDS educators knew about gay youth. Their contention is that this segment of the population is compromising its safety from HIV infection because young men often find themselves having sex before they identify with being gay. By providing a safe place to discuss sexuality, OUTRIGHT aims at lowering this group's risk of infection.

From this idea came others which include the acknowledgment that queer youth are living in isolation and would benefit from knowing others like themselves; adult gays and lesbians can be role models queer youth and that sexual diversity can equal success, not failure or moral condemnation. Although OUTRIGHT was founded on the basis of AIDS prevention in the male population, lesbian youth comprise half of the active members.

Kidman was asked what she thought OUTRIGHT was offering the community. "A challenge to oppression. . . the mere existence (of OUTRIGHT) is a shimmer of hope to queer youth in rural isolated places," she responded. Kidman's energy and determination are contagious as she works democratically with a board of directors to transform this grassroots AIDS activist outreach program into a nonprofit institution.

Kidman loves to tell the story of a boy who came to an HIV education and OUTRIGHT presentation at a southern Maine high school. In closing the session Kidman offered information about OUTRIGHT meetings. The young man approached the front of the room to tell Ms. Kidman that he didn't think he would ever make to a meeting but that he had heard from a friend that on a box in the trunk of her car was a button that said, "My mother thinks I'm at the movies." The boy did eventually make it to an OUTRIGHT meeting. What impressed Ms. Kidman most was that the kids were talking about the program and networking among themselves. The walls of isolation were beginning to break down for queer teens.

Young adults are not recruited or solicited to attend OUTRIGHT. Area guidance counselors and local papers offer listings of OUTRIGHT meetings but youth must find their own way to the meetings. Participants don't even have to give their names at meetings though most do. No records are kept of attendance other than the total number of participants for funding purposes.

OUTRIGHT is a place to explore ideas. Young adults don't often come to OUTRIGHT for support around coming out to their families. The group does explore the benefits and consequences of coming out at home, work, school and to friends. When an individual decides to take those steps, they have some strategies in place to help the homophobic world recover from its shock.

C.P.R. spoke with Steve Snow, an OUTRIGHT youth and advisory board member. Snow described some of the myths that continue to prevail among both hetero and homosexual youth. Some of these falsehoods are that only gay men and I.V. drug users contract HIV and that all gay men get HIV.

A recent study by Dr. Linda Valleroy of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA substantiates many

of Snow's assumptions about young men and HIV. Valleroy found that in 6 urban counties, 5% of teenage males engaging in sex with other men, ages 15 to 19 were HIV positive while 9% of these men ages 20-22 had contracted the virus. An alarming 38% of the men surveyed admitted to having unprotected sex in the last 6 months. One of the reasons these men gave for putting themselves at risk was "that HIV infection only occurred among older gay men so intercourse with a peer was somehow less risky."

Snow volunteers as a youth speaker for OUTRIGHT, visiting local schools to help dispel these and other myths about homosexuality. "The empowerment I get from serving the community is fantastic," he says. "There is a greater demand for speakers than there are youths willing to speak out" he adds. "We have to choose the locations where we will be most effective. We can't reach them all (the schools)." "OUTRIGHT has other needs as well" Snow says. "For example, we need more advisors to offer a variety of perspectives and role models." Young people want to see a wide range of gay adults leading all different types of successful lifestyles.

OUTRIGHT has been serving the Portland area for 8 years now. Fortunately other communities are beginning to sponsor similar OUTRIGHT projects. Claire Gelinas and Nancy Bullett of the AIDS Coalition of Auburn and Lewiston are beginning an OUTRIGHT group with new funds. Like OUTRIGHT Portland this organization will start from the perspective of HIV prevention and education, but will certainly evolve to meet the social needs of the youth community as well. For more information concerning the Lewiston/Auburn OUTRIGHT program call: 786 4697.

Lisa Kushner and Rene Karickhoff of the Waldo/Knox Counties AIDS Coalition is planning an OUTRIGHT group for eastern Maine with the help of a Searsport area youth. Thanks to a small grant, Karickhoff was hired as the facilitator. The program, modeled after Portland's, will begin meeting sometime in April. For more information call 1-800-639-7707. Portland OUTRIGHT meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 PM at 155 Brackett Street. Call 828-6560 for more information. Parents of gay, lesbian or bisexual teens may contact P-Flag, Parents and friends of Lesbians and Gays at 774-3441. ΔΔ

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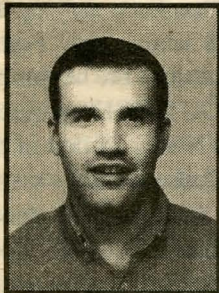
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PAST OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

Was Bill Clinton the first presidential candidate to openly support gay and lesbian rights?

Gay and lesbian voters in 1992 were energized by then-Governor Bill Clinton's promises on a wide range of community issues, from AIDS to lesbians and gays in the military. Gays and lesbians provided Clinton's election campaign with crucial dollars, volunteers and votes, helping provide the margin of victory in states such as Georgia and Ohio. But the gay and lesbian community has played an active role in many previous presidential campaigns, sometimes with significant support from the candidates.

In fact, the most important gay-rights organization of the 1950s, the Mattachine Society, was originally conceived as a way for gay men to support a presidential candidate: progressive former Vice President Henry Wallace. Gay rights pioneer Harry Hay attempted to organize among the gay men he knew in Los Angeles, and some of them suggested he call their group "Fruits for Wallace" or "Queers for Wallace." Hay instead proposed "Bachelors for Wallace," but the group never really advanced past the idea stage.

Perhaps because of McCarthyism, perhaps because of the lack of an appealing candidate, gays and lesbians as a group largely stayed out of the presidential elections of the 1950s and 1960s. But in 1972 the Democrats nominated a candidate who had publicly supported gay rights as early as 1970 — George McGovern. Many gays and lesbians had worked hard for McGovern during the primaries, and in return, McGovern allowed a convention debate on including a gay-rights plank in the party's platform.

Thus San Francisco gay activist Jim Foster and Buffalo lesbian activist Madeline Davis addressed the convention on national television in support of lesbian and gay rights. Twenty years later many newspapers reported Roberta Achtenberg's 1992 Democratic Convention speech as the first such address by an openly gay person, having apparently forgotten about the remarkable moment in 1972 when Foster told the convention and the nation:

"We do not come to you pleading your understanding or begging your tol-

erance. . . We come to you affirming our pride in our life-style, affirming the validity of our right to seek and to maintain meaningful emotional relationships, and affirming our right to participate in the life of this country on an equal basis with every citizen."

Despite his earlier promises (he even ran ads in "The Advocate," McGovern later backed off his pro-gay stands under the pressure of a homophobic general public. Sound familiar?

Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter declared support for gay rights early in 1976, and even sent his handsome son Chip to campaign in the Castro during the California primary. A month before the convention, however, he withdrew his support for a gay rights plank, effectively dooming the measure. Though activists threatened that 10,000 gays and lesbians would protest at a rally outside the New York City convention, fewer than a thousand actually showed up. During the general election, incumbent President Gerald Ford fared no better with gay voters, unable to even comment when Michigan gay activists buttonholed him about America's restrictions on gay immigrants.

In 1980, Carter again refused to support a gay-rights plank in the Democratic platform, and much of the gay and lesbian activist vote in the primaries went to Sen. Edward Kennedy. Of course, in the general election Ronald Reagan was the other choice so most voters for whom gay rights was a main issue held their noses and voted for the defeat-bound President.

Early in his campaign for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination, former Vice President Walter Mondale took the risky step of addressing over 1,000 gay activists at a human rights dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. Mondale was received enthusiastically, despite the fact that he never mentioned gay rights in his speech. A 100,000-strong gay-rights march outside the Democratic National Convention that year helped ensure the passage of

several gay-rights planks, including one relating to AIDS research, in the Democratic platform.

Neither Governor Michael Dukakis nor Vice President George Bush aroused much enthusiasm among gays and lesbians in the 1988 elections. In fact, the only candidate who elicited strong support within the organized gay and lesbian community was Rev. Jesse Jackson, whose moving speech at the 1987 March on Washington and consistent inclusion of gays and lesbians in his "Rainbow Coalition" convinced many liberal gay Democrats that he was their best candidate in years.

The 1992 election is a familiar story, with all the Democratic candidates (Clinton, Tom Harkin, Jerry Brown, Paul Tsongas, and Bob Kerrey) coming out in support of gay and lesbian rights early in the primary season. In the general election, of course, Clinton stood out from George Bush and Ross Perot in his consistent promises on gay rights and AIDS.

And what of the 1996 elections? The Republican candidates certainly have little history of support for the community's issues: Sen. Phil Gramm got elected to the Senate in 1984 in part by attacking his opponent's acceptance of money from a gay rights group. Sen. Bob Dole can't seem to decide whether he wants to accept gay money in *this* race. Pat Buchanan once called AIDS "nature's awful retribution" for gays' "war on nature." Rep. Bob Dornan is so homophobic his opponents entitled a biography and collection of his quotes "Shut Up, Fag." And son-of-a-gay Malcolm Forbes, Jr. has yet to take a strong stand in favor of laws that would ensure that no American has to live the kind of sad double life his father lived.

Will gays and lesbians who feel betrayed by Clinton's abandonment on gays in the military and the Colorado case hold their noses and vote to re-elect the president who has taken more pro-gay steps than any other? Or will an independent candidate, perhaps Lowell Weicker or Jesse Jackson, present gays with a choice they can vote for with confidence? This month's primaries and caucuses kick off the election season, so we'll find out soon.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history and politics at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. If there's anything about the history of gays and/or lesbians you've always wondered about, contact him care of this newspaper or through his E-mail address: aribianco@aol.com. "Past Out" will appear monthly in CPR. ΔΔ

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OUT, from page 3

licitations telling them that they have won this fantastic vacation package in this wonderful warm destination. And all that is required is a "small" processing fee - usually to be paid for by credit card. The deals sound great - a 4 day package to the Caribbean or Hawaii for only \$89.95 or something similar. **DON'T FALL FOR IT!**

Before you even consider this type of trap, call your local Better Business Bureau or your local travel agent. They can tell you if the deal is real or is a travel scam. I recently had a distant relative lose over \$500 because they fell for one of these scams. Don't let it happen to you. ΔΔ

BUSINESS PROFILES:

Pride Associates open counseling office in Bangor, Maine

Bangor, ME - Pride Associates is a group of counselors who believe that a visible presence of gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual mental health professionals is essential. In a spirit of visible celebration of their sexual minority status, Roberta Poulin, MS, Diane Kuebler, MSW, and Kevin Byrne, MSW, have formed a counseling association designed specifically to meet the needs of sexual minorities and their families. Pride Associates believes that often in the search for a therapist a client questions and wonders about the therapist's knowledge of and acceptance of their own sexuality. They want to eliminate the whole coming out process for clients who are often put in the position of educating the professional at their own expense.

It is Pride Associate's philosophy that although all people share a larger context of life situation, sexual minority people encounter unique circumstances and challenges across the lifespan. Pride Associates believes that the needs of those unique circumstances are best met in a context of empathy and

shared experience, free of bias against sexual minorities. The reality that sexual minority people experience is often very complex. Internalized homophobia is as much an issue as societal homophobia and prejudice in the struggle for rightful and valuable identities as people of diversity.

"Pride Associates is really a statement about WHO WE ARE," says Kuebler. Byrne adds, "We are gay and lesbian counselors committed to a visible celebration of our diversity regardless of who we may serve. We bring a unique professional knowledge and specialized professional focus serving sexual minority people, their families, and the public in general."

Pride Associates have offices in Bangor and Bucksport, Maine. They provide individual, couples and family counseling, educational workshops, training and presentations on relevant topics such as diversity awareness, homophobia and heterosexism, sexuality appreciation and safer sex. For more information, call Pride Associates at 207/941-1678 or 207/469-6405. $\Delta\Delta$

Elite Ventures, Inc., PC and proud!

by Chris Milliken

Elite Ventures, Inc., greater Portland's newest dating service, plans to focus on the gay and lesbian community. Founded by Regina Papi and Michelle Jalbert, two Portland-based entrepreneurs, Elite Ventures plans to "take the anxiety out of dating and put the fun back into dating" for busy professionals with a special division dedicated to servicing the gay and lesbian communities.

"Believe me, I know first-hand how difficult dating is in this day and age," says Michelle, a single mother who juggles motherhood with her career and squeezes in a personal life when her schedule allows. "When Regina and I began thinking of business opportunities, we thought, 'We want to do something that's fun for us, fun for our clients, and something that makes a difference in someone's life.' This encompassed everything we were looking for."

Says Regina, "After talking with many people in the area about dating services, we were surprised to find that, in general, most were very open minded about using a dating service. But we knew that in order for us to be successful, we had to offer something a little

bit different, a little bit better - find a niche. Providing support to the gay and lesbian community seemed a perfect way for us to do just that."

Potential clients are asked to complete an application which outlines backgrounds, interests, beliefs and goals. Next, a personal interview is conducted from which Michelle and Regina develop a profile for each member. Profiles are then swapped between members who appear to be compatible, and when a match is mutually accepted among two members, a date is arranged.

"We can't do anything about the chemistry part," laughs Michelle, "but we'll make sure you're not wasting your time with someone you have absolutely nothing in common with. We are not so inclined to 'saturate' you with dates just to keep our cash registers ringing." We offer quality service with a personal touch, complete flexibility and confidentiality along with competitive pricing and a unique incentive plan.

EV plans to extend its services from the Augusta/Waterville area to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. For more information, call 207/773-7225. $\Delta\Delta$

UNUM: setting the standards for others to follow

by Chris Milliken

UNUM, a Maine based insurance company, has a history of affirming diversity in the work place. Since 1989 when the company prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation as part of its Equal Employment Opportunity policy, UNUM has set the standards for equal rights for sexual minority members. In 1991 Ann Houser, an openly lesbian employee with 13 years at UNUM asked the company to extend benefits to domestic partners by 1993. That year, the company's human resources department developed a full

schedule of events based on diversity education as well. Five affinity groups were established to create awareness of and a voice for people with disabilities, people of color, gays and lesbians, older workers and women.

Today, UNUM is proud to offer one of the most progressive work environments in the country. Domestic partners have the same benefits as legally married couples which includes medical, dental, life, short and long-term disability insurance, equal leave of absence policies for family issues and access to the corporate fitness facilities. Each

management unit within the company develops programs for raising awareness of differences through workshops and a program called "Lunch and Learn," where people may attend discussions lead by affinity group members. Sandy Bishop, commenting on behalf of UNUM said, "When an employee can bring her/his whole self to work, productivity increases." With good business in mind UNUM is committed to providing an increasingly progressive work environment with a specific set of goals to be attained through the year 2000.

See UNUM, page 21

Victoria Zavasnik, Portland based Educator & Therapist

by Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

Victoria Zavasnik has been an educator and therapist for twenty-five years. With a Masters degree in Motivational Therapy and a Ph.D in counseling psychology, Zavasnik is licensed as a substance abuse counselor and clinical counselor. Her broad background in education includes State certification in special education and administration in New York and Maine. She has worked with troubled adolescents and their parents and teachers, focusing her attention on eating disorders and on implementing programs focused on the emotional disturbances and behavioral problems linked to substance abusers.

Zavasnik currently consults with school systems throughout the State. She also provides therapy for individu-

als, families and groups.

"As a single mother of three grown children," says Zavasnik, "I've acquired 'life experience credentials' in working with the difficulties of single and co-parenting issues following the loss and trauma of separation, divorce and custody decisions. I've also had experience with family therapy for adoptees, birth parents and inter-racial families." Zavasnik has developed a special interest in the sensitive issues that concern parents of adult gay and lesbian children and in the personal challenges faced by gay and lesbian parents, couples and individuals.

Zavasnik has a keen interest in spirituality on a personal level and sees spiritual development as being potentially significant for clients in helping

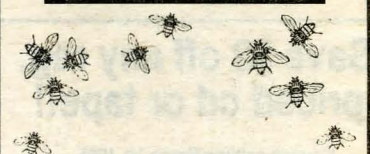
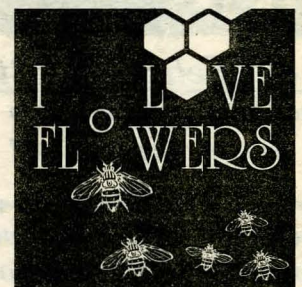
to integrate mind, body and spirit, particularly for individuals with recovery issues. Her spiritual quest has expanded Zavasnik's practice to include Spiritual Direction to individuals, clinicians and

See ZAVASNIK, page 21

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News from the Granite State

Rainbow Network unifying NH Seacoast

by Leslie Robinson, Managing Editor,
NH bureau

One woman's vision is turning into a movement to unify the New Hampshire Seacoast's gay community.

Last fall, Ruth Rosenhek called together various gay organizations and service-providers to gays in the Seacoast. The result is the Rainbow Network, a consortium of groups and individuals. The Net's aim is to halt the splintering of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

In a recent interview, Rosenhek said, "I think particularly in our community there is a lot of fragmentation." She called the first of many meetings last year after hearing that grant money would be available in the Seacoast from the Bob Kaman Fund for an Inclusive Community, a fund to promote equality for gays.

Rosenhek was apprehensive about

the first meeting. She believed community development was the issue that needed to be addressed, but she expected to hear different ideas and to deal with conflict. That didn't happen. Everyone agreed on the need to build community. "They got committed quite quickly," said Rosenhek.

And organized. The Net applied for and received a grant, totaling nearly \$2,500 from the Kaman Fund.

The Net's first big event proved to be the organizers that they were on the right track with community-building. In December the Net held an Opening Night in Portsmouth. Maine State Senator, Dale McCormick and author, Warren J. Blumenfeld were the speakers, and Rosenhek and her compatriots shared their vision of the Net. They had expected no more than 150 to attend, but 250 enthusiastic people filled the Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth.

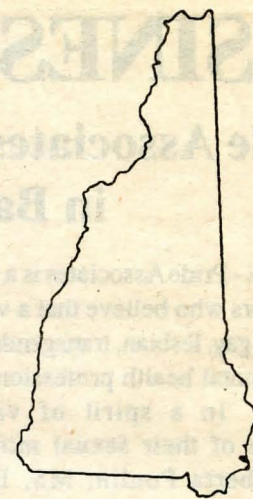
"That was really exciting for us all," said Rosenhek. The turnout showed

"that the need really, really does exist" for community-building. "I think there's a readiness in the community," added Rosenhek.

The spirit continued, as other organizations like PFLAG and Seacoast OUTRIGHT sent representatives to the next meeting, joining founding members Seacoast Gay Men, Sexual Minorities Advisory Council, the Dover Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Support Group, Out & About, and individuals from the community.

The Net's next task is to work out administrative details, like writing a mission statement. Rosenhek said it will go something like this: "The purpose of the Net is to bring together providers and community members to offer a vehicle to launch program initiatives, particularly those that encourage l/g/b/t community building."

In other words, to unify. The Net itself is viewed as a mode for ending fragmentation since it has within it dis-



parate groups working together. Rosenhek said the programs initiated through the Net will bring people together in the same way.

"If you don't model it at the top, it often won't happen," said Rosenhek, an organizational consultant by profession. "We're walking the talk ourselves."

In the Net's immediate future is a benefit dance on February 24 at the United Methodist Church in Portsmouth. Later in the year the Net will host a community-wide conference to plan programs. A long-range goal is the establishment of a gay community center. "It just keeps coming up," said Rosenhek. "I think there's a lot of desire for that."

Tom Andrews Calls on Progressives: "Organize!"

by Paige Roberts

Speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on January 27, People for the American Way President Tom Andrews urged progressive Americans to mobilize a truly pro-family grassroots movement. He talked about "The Politics of the Family," relating how the Religious Right, while calling itself pro-family, has pushed a political agenda that greatly harms American families. The Religious Right has been extremely successful in using language, symbols, and (frequently untrue) stories to advance its extreme right-wing political, economic, and social agenda.

"The American Way is about heartfelt American values—freedom of conscience, respect for differences, equal opportunity, responsibility to the community," said Andrews. "It is outrageous that the political forces that



Tom Andrews, Executive Director, People for the American Way.

are attacking these principles have wrapped themselves in the language of religion and values. For our families and our future, we can't let them get away with it. We won't let them get away with it."

Andrews urged about 200 church members and local activists to join the nonpartisan Expose the Right! campaign under way in New Hampshire. The campaign aims to mobilize citizens to expose the Right wing's political tactics and challenge presidential candidates to reject the Right's extreme agenda. People for the American Way is a national advocacy organization with over 300,000 members committed to fighting the political agenda of the Religious Right and building a new progressive movement in America.

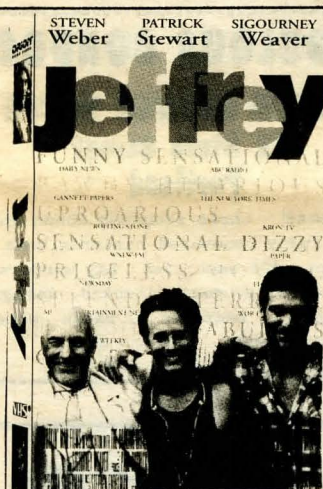
This process of rebuilding a progressive coalition in New Hampshire is, I believe, essential to our long-term success in opposing the Right. We must mobilize a broad range of progressives—including clergy, environmentalists, artists, feminists and pro-choice people, gay rights activists, workers, peace activists, students, and civil rights activists—to meet, develop, articulate, and begin to achieve our positive moral vision for a socially just world. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions about a progressive coalition in New Hampshire, please contact me (603-427-0034, email: proberts@bluefin.net).

NH group completes 1996 directory

Concord, NH - The Gay Info Line has just completed work on "Gay Lifeline," the 1996 directory of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender resources. This comprehensive book describes over 400 community resources and includes special sections on the World Wide Web and alternative periodicals. "Gay Lifeline" covers not only New Hampshire, but includes national resources and those in the border areas of neighboring states. Gay and lesbian social groups, youth groups, event

organizers, gay bars, accommodations and friendly professionals are among the many categories covered in the directory.

The Gay Info Line produced this very professional book entirely with volunteer labor. Publication was financed by a grant from Haymarket People's Fund and by private contributions. "Gay Lifeline" is an important first for northern New England. Copies are available for \$24.95 (check or money order) from the Gay Info Line of NH, 26 South Main St, Concord, NH 03301.



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## RURAL CONCERNS, from pg. 1



Flora Piterak at Sonewall organizing meeting in Portland, 1994

New Hampshire's gay community.

According to Piterak, gay/lesbian organizations in rural areas are often made up of people who are conservative in their politics and religion with little diversity. And for urban gay/lesbian organizations, who view the strides made by rural organizers as minuscule, the gap in gay culture grows even wider.

The Rural Concerns Consortium aims at pulling together the efforts of many gay/lesbian/bisexual and transgender communities throughout the state to combine resources with one strong voice. As Piterak states in the mission statement for the year and a half old organization, Rural Concerns Consortium has a goal of providing a forum so rural activists and organizers can share with each other and urban activists information on the unique problems and solutions of building, sustaining or collaborating with organizations in rural areas.

"I have been a state-wide activist for 15 years, and one of my reasons for helping to start the Rural Concerns Consortium is because I'm tired of urban organizers coming in and saying we're doing it wrong," says Bretz.

Coordinator of New Hampshire's Gay Info Line, an active member of Concord Alliance Gay Lesbian Resource (CAGLR), moderator for NH Coalition to End Discrimination, plus involvement in countless other organizations, Bretz has been around the block more than once. He considers the entire state of New Hampshire as rural and believes that many gay groups have been floundering and struggling to create change in a conservative atmosphere, in which many haven't felt safe to be out.

In an effort to be rid of the us-them dilemma that hovers over gay commu-

nities in the cities and out in the country like a thick cloud, rural organizers like Piterak, who founded NH Pride, the organization that puts on an annual pride rally and other events want to be recognized for their leadership skills. Rural organizers need to be heard but not judged on arbitrary criteria created by those outside the rural communities, according to Piterak.

To help educate urban groups as well as incorporate into national efforts, Rural Concerns Consortium quickly aligned itself with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). At NGLTF's 8th annual Creating Change conference held in Detroit last November, Rural Concerns Consortium founders Piterak and Bretz developed a workshop that focused on the urban-rural communication gap for other gay rural organizers.

The unique set of issues that face gay rural communities in New Hampshire needs to be addressed and not denied any longer, according to Bretz. Many rural gays, lesbians, bisexuals, or transgendereds cannot receive gay mail; phone calls at work may not be acceptable if they involve gay issues. Depending on where you live, it can take miles before you reach an established meeting place for gay socializing, or support groups. There are few clubs or bars in the state and the gay news often comes by way of sealed newsletters.

The goal of the workshop Piterak and Bretz presented at the national Creating Change conference was for activists and rural organizers across the country to learn how to use the unique gay rural environment to accomplish the goals of their organizations. Piterak and Bretz were able to connect with other rural activists and set up a network to help perpetuate the exchange of ideas about what works and what has not in supporting rural gay communities.

The Rural Concerns Consortium is planning a symposium for April that focuses on the issues gay rural organizations in New Hampshire face currently. Workshops followed by a dance in the evening is scheduled. The invite is open to all organizers and members of gay communities in New Hampshire. Community Pride Reporter will provide more details on the symposium in March's issue.

Is there gay life outside of Boston? The answer is yes, and the Rural Concerns Consortium is glad to be out in the country.  $\Delta\Delta$

## \$25,000 Award, continued

total applicants," says Ellen Fineberg, principal architect of the committee's proposal.

"Considering we were a first-time applicant and received all of the funding we requested, is really an accomplishment," adds Angela Matthews, Director of GPCF.

Entering their third year, the Cultural Diversity Committee was established through GPCF by a wide range of more than 30 educators, business people, artists and community representatives to address the need to promote ethnic diversity in the Seacoast.

Their past projects include sponsorship of a Cultural Diversity Day at Marshwood High School in Eliot, Maine, panel discussions, the Hallelujah Singers at the Portsmouth Music Hall and a theatrical performance call "Look Away" about the life of President Lincoln's wife and dressmaker friend, a former black slave.

Recently the Committee worked

with preservationist, Valerie Cunningham and Strawberry Bank education director, Mark Sammons, to establish the Black Heritage Trail, a guided tour that documents the interaction between Portsmouth blacks and colonial Americans, by highlighting people, events and building sites from the 18th through 20th centuries.

Despite funding cuts and large-scale staff reductions, the National Endowment for the Humanities remains dedicated to enhancing ethnically diverse humanities projects for school curriculums.

Says Fineberg, "We are very hopeful of finding teachers with a broad range of interests to participate in the project."

Teachers interested in being placed on the Institute mailing list should contact the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, 446 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801, 603/430-9182. Information about the Cultural Diversity Committee is also available.  $\Delta\Delta$

## NH's Anti-discrimination bill goes into Committee

by Alice A. Fannin

On January 18 the Judiciary Committee of the New Hampshire House of Representatives heard House Bill #1294, a proposed amendment adding sexual orientation to New Hampshire's existing anti-discrimination law. The Coalition to End Discrimination arranged for 21 people to speak in favor of the bill. These speakers included people who have been discriminated against in the areas covered by the bill, such as employment and public accommodations, members of PFLAG, and representatives of the business community who recognize the significant contributions that gay, lesbian and bisexual people bring to the workplace.

A great deal of support is coming from the various religious communities throughout New Hampshire such as the Unitarian Universalists, the United Church of Christ, New Hampshire Conference, the American Friends Service Committee and the Episco-

pal Church.

There was minimal opposition present during this proceeding, but we recognize the need to be ever vigilant into the next round. The Judiciary Committee will meet in the coming weeks and we fully expect that a favorable decision will be rendered. The bill may go into a study by a small committee where public hearings will be held to collect data on the issue.

We will be coming back to the community as soon as we have a decision to begin work on the next round. What can we each do now? Call or write a Judiciary member or send a note to Chairperson Robert Lockwood or Vice-Chair Hess thanking the committee for such a quality and fair hearing.

Alice A. Fannin is the Coalition to End Discrimination's PR person. We thank "Breathing Space" the newsletter of the NH CAGLR for permission to reprint..

## National Endowment of the Humanities awards \$25,000 grant

Portsmouth, NH - The Cultural Diversity Committee of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation announced recently that they are the recent recipients of a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities.

This humanities focus grant will be used to establish an Institute for scholars, high school teachers and local humanities organizations to examine the Colonial Revival era in the Piscataqua region of New Hampshire from 1880-

1920.

Special attention will be paid to Revivalists' attitudes toward race, class and ethnicity. Ten high school teachers will be selected to work with a group of acknowledged scholars in literature, history and material culture to discuss teaching techniques and materials to bring to the classroom setting.

"We feel especially fortunate because we were one of ten other applicants to receive a grant out of about 50

Continued next column

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## Community Pride Reporter

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**Tania Jo Hathaway**  
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**Michael Rossetti**  
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**Bruce Balboni**  
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"Music on Review"

**David O. Cook**  
"Rant"

**Caroline A. Jalbert**  
Insurance Tips

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**David O. Cook  
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# EDITORIALS



This month I would like to welcome some additional volunteers to the staff of the "Community Pride Reporter." We now have a Business/Advertising Sales Manager by the name of Chris Milliken. As you will notice, he is also a writer and will be making contributions from time to time more in the area of Arts & Entertainment. He lives in Scarborough and we met when he was doing some telephone work at the CPR office for Maine Won't Discriminate. Chris is multi-talented and is committed to the concept of a news-

paper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities.

Also joining the staff is Leslie Robinson and Suzanne Pyle. Together these women are co-Managing Editors of the now-a-reality New Hampshire bureau of CPR. We are all invigorated by the expansion of CPR and at the same time the work load has increased dramatically. I am grateful for the many people who devote so much time to the paper and who also encourage me when it's rough going.

In addition to the new staff, we have three new columns: "Past Out" by David Bianco, "AIDS in the 90s: Reasons for Hope" from the Search for a Cure Foundation, and "Singin' OUT!" by Martin Swinger, singer, songwriter and livin' in Maine. Let us know what

you think of the additions.

We need a voice in Maine and New Hampshire, particularly as the political scene whips into an even more homophobic frenzy than I thought possible. CPR wants to continue to cover the political scenes in both New Hampshire and Maine. Somewhere out there is a person or persons who have a burning desire to become political reporters for each state and keep us all up to date on what's going on with regard to local elections, anti-gay bills, anti-discrimination bills etc. Please call the office if you are interested in this important job.

## Full Circle of Women Conference scheduled

by Winnie Weir

The Center for Gender Sanity, located in Ashby, Massachusetts is once again sponsoring the Full Circle of Women conference to be held from April 12-14 at the Essex Conference Center and Retreat in Essex, Massachusetts. The Center is a 45-minute drive from Boston, is secluded on 18 acres of woods adjacent to 250 acres of conservation land and is also within walking distance of the ocean. Other features (read 'temptations') of the Center include a hot tub for 12, wood-fired sauna for 8 and "wonderful, healthy, mainly vegetarian meals . . . served family style." Special diets can be accommodated and children are welcome. (Call to arrange child care.)

"Full Circle of Women" is for woman-identified individuals living their lives as women - transgendered, nontransgendered ("biological"), transsexual (pre and post operative), and intersex people living as women. Participation by women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, asexual or



other-sexual is encouraged. Women of all colors, shapes and sizes are welcome.

According to their brochure, this conference is an opportunity "for those who have been excluded from women's events to include ourselves in women's space. For those who have taken womanhood for granted, it challenges all our assumptions about gender."

The brochure continues, "It is time for a reformulation of feminism, for a philosophy that embraces all women, not just those who are politically correct, not just those with a certain sexual orientation, not just 'genetic' women, not just

those with vaginas, but all who identify as women. 'Full Circle of Women' is an opportunity to leave gender-phobia behind and take a step toward an expanded vision of who women are and where feminism is going."

The cost of the weekend is \$265 and includes double or triple accommodations, all meals from supper

Friday through lunch Sunday, use of the hot tub and sauna and all workshops. A limited number of single rooms are available for \$25 extra charge. Some scholarship money may be available. Those who can afford to make an additional contribution with their registration will help to keep this event from becoming classist. Space is limited to 30, so it is important to sign up early. March 1 is strongly encouraged. For more information or to register contact Janis Walworth, Center for Gender Sanity, PO Box 11, Ashby, MA 01421, 508/386-7737.

## Knox-Manley

Pamela L. Manley and Sharon A. Knox-Manley of Sebec, Maine, were united in a Ceremony of Love on October 7, 199 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sangerville by the Rev. Alec Craig.

The brides are the daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Manley of Meriden, Connecticut and Mr. & Mrs. Irene Lachance of Brunswick, Maine.

Best Women were Ms. Lynn Aniskiewicz of Meriden, Connecticut, niece of the bride, and Mrs. Vonnice Drown of Memphis, Tennessee, sister of the bride.

Usherette was Ms. Jean Taylor of Plainfield, Connecticut and Usher was Mr. Robert Knox III of Randolph, Maine, son of the bride.



Ms. Pam Manley (l.) & Ms. Sharon K. Manley following their ceremony.

A reception was held following the ceremony at the Sangerville Town Hall. The couple enjoyed a week on Cape Cod at Provincetown, Massachusetts. They reside in Sebec, Maine.

Photo by Northwood Studio.

(Editor's Note: I called the Manleys and spoke with Sharon. She and Pam are committed to serving as role models to youngsters and their parents in their community. They have begun a PFLAG chapter and are looking toward a youth group where safe space for discussions and socialization can be provided. They are two courageous women who have a riveting story to tell. CPR plans to interview Pam and Sharon and share their story with our readers.) ΔΔ

The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of our earth's resources. Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge. However, we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does its part to "Color ME Green."





## RANT: It's a conspiracy, isn't it??

by David Cook

Sometimes, it's hard to resist concocting conspiracy theories

about events in American politics. So many unpleasant things have happened and are happening that it's easy to believe in the primacy of some diabolical plot which must be behind it all. People with a firm grasp on reality will tell you that conspiracy theories are mostly bunk and that it's not conspiracy at work, but rather the same old laws that have governed human events for centuries. Laws like: the rich get richer and the poor get poorer — as in *The Contract With America*.

Although fundamentally an attack on the standard of living of all Americans from the middle class on down, the Republican budget would bring disproportionate suffering to poor women in single-parent families by curtailing services they desperately need — money, food, and health care. And that's not all: reductions in any kind of service you can think of — from education subsidies and mental health services to subsidized child care options for working parents — constitute a national squeeze play against the poor, seemingly designed to prevent them from ever getting out of poverty.

Maybe not as a conspiracy, but certainly as some sort of poetic in-justice, I find it interesting that, at the same time the Republicans — largely white and male — are mounting an all-out attack on America's poor women, they have stepped up their efforts to discredit Hilary Clinton, who is, by all accounts,

the kind of woman that right-wing Republicans despise.

The misogyny in America is palpable at the best of times, but Mrs. Clinton has clearly trod on some sacred straight-white-male territory in order to merit the intense scrutiny she is now receiving, both from a Congressional investigating committee and from the public. Public disapprobrium has taken the form of news stories with titles like "Hilary Clinton-Asset or Liability?" and nasty political cartoons portraying her as a meddling wife, interfering in functions that are more properly the purview of the President. Or, to sum it up as some folks have done at my local barber shop, she's an uppity bitch interfering in her husband's job. Actually, Mrs. Clinton has even been called a lesbian, which will probably be regarded as a compliment by the readership of CPR, but possibly not intended as such by those who consider her so.

Historically, first ladies have been expected to look pretty, give tours of the White House, and occupy themselves with symbolic and harmless pet programs. There haven't been many activist first ladies in my lifetime, although Jackie Kennedy and Lady Bird Johnson made significant contributions. And I suppose that if you consider Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" anti-drug campaign as social activism, then you may wish to include her in the list as well. (Although, personally, I can only give her credit for bringing the persona of Evita Perone back to life.)

But not since Eleanor Roosevelt has a first lady taken on a significant piece of government business as her own

project. Not until Hilary Clinton that is. Mrs. Clinton was not content with the purely decorative role allocated her by cultural default; early in the Clinton Presidency, she took on leadership of the health care reform process and presided over the definition of a plan that would have pulled health care out of the greedy claws of big insurance companies and the medical aristocracy.

A President and an activist First Lady who, at least initially, seemed like a threat to entrenched interests, must have driven the Republican right wing to near panic. Reaction to the First Lady's health care reform initiatives was swift and coordinated. With the collusion of an intellectually-disengaged national media, Congressional Republicans and the medical lobby began a scare campaign to discredit the plan as basically un-American. And it was during this process that we began to see public nastiness against the Clintons in general and the first lady in particular, followed closely by Whitewater, an ongoing media circus which feeds the public appetite for political scandal and promotes the notion that maybe our president and his uppity wife are closet crooks.

Of course, the Republican leadership denies that their lust for the Clintons' blood is politically motivated and they all profess the highest regard for Mrs. Clinton. So maybe it's not a conspiracy after all. Still, neutralizing the First Lady at the same time you are painting the country's poor women into a corner could almost seem like more than a coincidence. But then, I'm just the suspicious type. ΔΔ

## CPR MAIL BAG:

Dear CPR,

I am asking for your help on a very unique project. I am collecting recipes for a cookbook being published to remember loved ones who have died from AIDS. Similar to the NAMES Quilt project, the cookbook will allow parents, children, siblings, spouses, friends, lovers, neighbors and co-workers to remember those who they have lost to AIDS. Each recipe will also be accompanied with a first-person essay about their loved one. This will allow so many wonderful memories and recipes to be remembered and shared with others.

...there are limited resources and facilities for people living with AIDS who are not able to support themselves financially. All proceeds from the sale of this very special cookbook will be donated to the care of people living with AIDS.

All I ask is for your help in telling your readers, friends, and associates about this worthwhile project. Each contributor is asked to include their name, their loved one's name and favorite recipe, and a brief essay (or special memory) about their loved one. A late 1996 publication is planned. Correspondence should be forwarded to David R. Oliver, 205 W. 38th Street, Norfolk, VA 23504. David Oliver, Norfolk, VA

Dear CPR,

Each year the Homeless Crisis Hotline gets a few calls for assistance from victims (sic) of AIDS in Maine or New Hampshire. The Hotline is set up to serve ALL in need of information. . . We serve the once rich or upper middle class as well as the chronic poor. AIDS and sexual preference respect no economic class lines. . .

Hospitality House, Inc., the organization that runs the Homeless Crisis Hotline, has suffered societal discrimination because it refuses to turn away those who have a sexual orientation different than the majority. The Hotline wants to be here for anyone in need, including people with AIDS or people of a different sexual orientation, but we are \$2,000 in the red.

Help us keep the phone lines open. \$20 from 100 persons will catch us up. Even \$10 from 100 persons will pay the nationwide, toll-free phone bill so we can continue providing life saving information.

If you can help, please send tax-exempt donations to Hospitality House, Inc., PO Box 62, Hinckley, ME 04944. For more information, call 207/453-2986 or 1-800-438-3890. Homelessness kills year round. Homelessness does not discriminate. It kills gays as well as straights. If you want more

facts on our work, call me.

Sincerely

Jan Lightfoot, Hinckley, Maine

Dear CPR,

I visited Drop Me a Line on Congress Street in Portland today. I felt somehow comforted knowing that our community has such a wonderful resource for affirmation and pride. It is a safe and warm space to find materials by and for the gay community. I asked Jim, the co-owner, how business has been. He was concerned and worried that they were one month behind in bills and December was the slowest month in 1995.

Drop Me a Line has been with us for some 6 years, and I feel we have taken this store for granted. This business needs our support before we lose it. Keep in mind where you opt to spend your money. Why not invest in our community instead of a chain store at the mall? We need to pull together, continue the momentum and increase our strength and visibility. Support gay-owned business! It helps all of us. We need Drop Me a Line in Portland and more like it.

If they can stay afloat, Jim spoke of moving to a larger space and having a space for coffee, reading poetry, listening to acoustic music, etc. Right now, he doesn't know

### Community Pride Reporter

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### Our Mission

Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinion by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of Maine and New Hampshire. CPR strives to increase awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of infusing the word community with renewed meaning and vitality. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

### Our Editorial Policy

Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the publisher. Community Pride Reporter may endorse candidates we feel represent our community most completely. Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may consider printing a clarification at her discretion. No assumptions should be made concerning the sexual self-identification of either contributors or advertisers.

### Submissions Welcome

CPR encourages readers to write! Material submitted for publication must be legibly signed and include address and/or phone number for verification. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publisher's discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons.

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if he can even cover costs for the small space (filled with interesting materials) currently in use.

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Jennifer A. Deraspe, Portland



# Arts & Entertainment

## PLANET TORI



by Aimsel L. Ponti

I'm an absolute wreck. "Boys for Pele," the new album

by Tori Amos has me in it's firm grasp. Interestingly enough, I've read a few reviews here and there from people who don't like this record as much as her two previous ones. But, I'm not bitter as we are all entitled to an opinion. However, as far as I'm concerned, Tori Amos could sing the telephone book and it would be a religious experience.

I, like many other Tori fans, am slightly obsessed with her music and can be a bit irrational about it at times. I loved the album before I even heard it because Tori's had me under her spell since I heard the song "Crucify" a few years ago. Music can do many things you see. It can bring you down and it can make you smile and dance. When I listen to Tori Amos, I feel emotionally validated. She touches on so many things, like religion and sex to name a few. But she not only touches on these

subjects, she wraps herself around them in a way that no one else can.

Pele is a volcano goddess, so the title "Boys for Pele" could be interpreted in a variety of ways. I'll leave that up to you.

Although I think that "Little Earthquakes" will never be equaled, this new one is a close second. That's not to say that "Under the Pink" is not a great album, it's just that this one is even better.

"Hey, Jupiter, tell me is it true? So are you gay, are you blue? Thought we both could use a friend to run to," says Tori on the album's chilling track "Hey Jupiter." Amos is definitely not shy with her lyrics, she'll say just about anything that is on her mind. At times you could call her a bit on the nasty side. During the song "Professional Widow" the phrase "star-fucker" is wailed several times. However, Tori has never been one to use profanity unless it is really called for.

The band Nine Inch Nails is once again referred to on this album. Here's the brief history: On the "Little Earthquakes" song, the band is mentioned in the song "Precious Things" and then on

"Under the Pink," NIN front man Trent Reznor's vocals are on "Past the Mission." The first single from this new album is "Caught a Lite Sneeze." In this song Amos makes reference to a "pretty hate machine," which is the title of a Nine Inch Nails record.

"You think I'm a queer, You think I'm a queer," declares Amos on Pele's second track "Blood Roses." As for her sexuality, well, I heard she recently ended a relationship with her former producer Eric Rosse. What the future holds for her love life remains to be seen. But you can bet we'll hear about it on her next record.

Already, Tori Amos has offered her fans a whole slew of B-sides to savor. "London Girls" is a sweet little offering and you'll find it on one of the 3 CD-singles of "Caught a Lite Sneeze." Tori still is the reigning queen of imports and b-sides. She has more singles than many bands have albums. My collection has about 25 of them, and there are more out there. Her record label is well aware that we Tori fans need to have all her recordings to really be happy.

Will she go on tour? I haven't got-



ten the official word yet, but let's hope that she not only tours but makes her way onto the State Theater Stage, a stage that is still trembling from her performance in August of '94.

She has been all over television though. Even on the Regis & Kathy Lee show if you can believe that. Hey, a friend actually taped it for me if you need to see it. Apparently Leno, Letterman and Saturday Night Live have all had her as a musical guest.

Life on Planet Tori is mystical, powerful, playful and just a little wacky. All you have to do to get there is close your eyes and listen to the music . . . ΔΔ

### Theatre Review:

#### "From the Mississippi Delta"

by Dr. Endesha Ida Mae Holland  
Directed by Caroline Jackson Smith  
Through March 2, 1996

by Rose Mary Denman

Three women stole the stage during the preview performance I attended for "From the Mississippi Delta" at the Portland Stage Company.

The play traces the life of a young black girl born in the south in 1944. This young black girl is the playwright herself.

Ida Mae's cruel baptism into the world of separatism and non-equality for people of color came on the day of her 11th birthday, when she was raped by her charge's father. The fact that his wife was the one who called ida Mae up to

the bedroom only serves to remind us that for many whites, it wasn't rape if you did it to a black girl . . . it wasn't cheating on your wife either.

Kalmi Baxter, Kathy Bentley and Stephanie Berry keep the audience in awe as they weave in and out of taking on characters in the story: the hawker at a travelling show; the young girl, Ida, in her innocence and childlike wonder; "the second doctor lady (Ida Mae's mother). Stephanie Berry, taking on the role of Bro Preacher at the second Doctor lady's funeral demonstrated incredible talent. All three women shone with both talent and diversity in their ability to sing acapella throughout the performance, everything from blues to gospel to freedom songs.

"From the Mississippi Delta" is a story of pain as well as joy, of cruelty at its depths of devastation and of the strength of the human spirit to rise above the pain and devastation and soar to become "The third Doctor Lady of the Mississippi Delta!"

I understand that there is a sold out house for afternoon performances which will be playing to classes of students. That's wonderful! Those students will learn more about black history in this century than they would learn in a classroom. . . and there are three women in this performance who will make sure they learn it with gusto!

This performance runs through March 2nd and its a "must see"! ΔΔ

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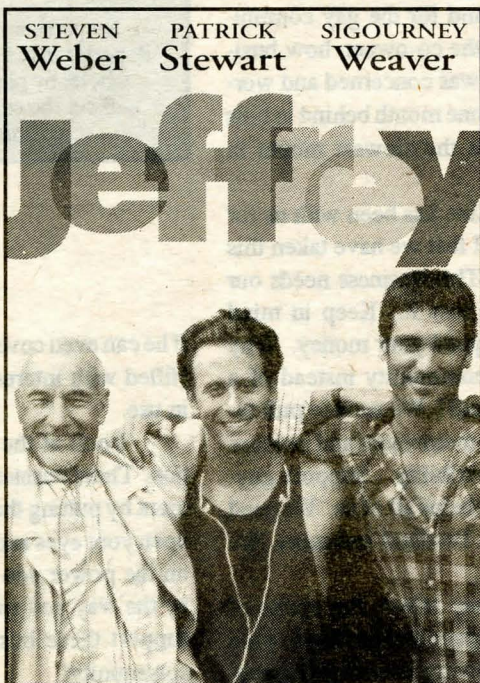


Photo by Philip Rogers  
From left to right: Stephanie Berry, Kathi A. Bentley and Kalimi Baxter from a scene of "From the Mississippi Delta" at the Portland Stage Company, Forest Avenue, Portland.

More A & E on pages 14, 15, & 19



# O STAR Touch me!

by Anne Witten

## Review:

by Skip Brushaber

How do I, a mortal male, have the audacity to attempt to review these works written in the ancient tradition of Sappho, the Greek chorus, and sacred oracles with bows to Aphrodite, Isis, Astarte, etc.? I admit to an old envy of the feminine mysteries and the love that exists only between women. Try as hard as I have in the past, these portals remained closed to me. That is, until I sat quietly and listened to "O Star" and "Touch Me." By listening to the rhythm and beauty of the spoken word of these two sound poems, I have a glimmer of understanding of this love. I say 'listened to' because the sound poem is meant to be heard, not to be read. These works, as performed by the poet, the late Anne Witten, with Suzanne Parrott-Wolfe, Pamela Ryan, and Christina Winter, envelop the listener in the power and radiance of the female voice.

Webster defines star as: 1] any luminous celestial object seen as points of light in the sky; 2] such an object re-



garded as influencing one's fate; or 3] to perform brilliantly having great skill. "O Star" could fit all three of these definitions. The female object of the love is treated as a celestial being influencing the fate of her beloved. The repeated phrases, always containing the word star, give the listener the sense of love on all levels. The spoken words are haunting, plaintive, meditative, erotic, and empowering all at the same time. The performers are brilliant, possessing great skill.

The shorter piece, "Touch Me," is the more earthy performance. Where "O Star" is categorically other worldly and ethereal, "Touch Me" speaks to the grounded, alluring, and sensual side of See STAR, page 14

## Video Ops

by Jowi Winchester

With the January thaw over, thoughts of Spring can't be far behind. Hand in hand with thoughts of spring come thoughts of love. Do you remember your first love? The butterflies, sweaty palms, nervous stuttering, painful awkwardness? If you are like me your first love is long gone... and good riddance! However a reminder of those days can still be yours all for the cost of a video rental. "The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love" certainly proves that first love is not for the faint hearted. Two girls is a remarkable film that everyone, (hey guys, this film isn't just for girls) can identify with. Valentines Day is around the corner so grab your sweetie by the hands, sit down in front of your TV and get ready for a great cuddlefest.

For a complete change of pace you might try "Priest." This movie is certainly a Catholic button pusher. Although the Catholic Church panned it (and most likely damned it), "Priest" is a finely crafted film. The actors are engaging and believable. The plot concerns a young priest who is struggling with his sexuality. (As we all have at one point or another.) Interwoven

with this struggle is doubt, not with his chosen profession, but with his employer, the Catholic Church. Priest is a heart wrencher that is well worth a couple of viewings. (If only for the sex scene, which is so subtle its obscene!)

If you are not up to an emotional film you could check out "Clueless." This surprising bit of gay camp fluff abounds with one liners to fortify your repertoire.

My final recommendation this month is an Australian film called "The Sum of Us." This is a delightful picture about a gay man and his relationship with his dad. In the tradition of "Ferris Beuller's Day Off," there are a lot of scenes where the characters speak directly to the audience. The result is a charming film with some pretty amazing observations about life and relationships. Especially poignant is a monologue by the father, who after he is told he should be ashamed of himself for encouraging his son's homosexuality, states that "our children are the 'sum of us'" and that it is impossible to be ashamed of that. How could one fail to fall in love with this dad. If you didn't have a Valentine, then here is your chance!

Jowi Winchester is a Virgo with a Scorpio moon who loves to read, watch movies and dance his \$#@ off. ΔΔ

## Artist Profile: Anne Witten, poet

by Skip Brushaber

Dr. George Smith, Dean of the Maine College of Art, describes Anne Witten as one of the great revolutionary poets of the American twentieth century. Through the unique structure, pitch, and cadence of her sound poems, Anne Witten exalted the extraordinary in the commonplace. By making use of the human voice as an instrument reduced to it's primal state and the archaic chanting rhythm of repeated words, she created a language of the soul. Her sound poetry celebrating same sex female love is based in the traditions of ancient epic verse and the feminine Greek chorus. Witten's work also pays homage to Old

and Middle English, Native American, Middle Eastern, and other ancient Indo-European oral traditions.

Born in Arlington, Virginia, Anne Witten spent her childhood summers in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. She was a 1964 graduate of the University of Colorado with degrees in interdisciplinary studies, philosophy, English literature, and political theory.

Dr. Anne Witten received her Ph.D. in oral literature from Boston University in 1981. She did special studies in Homeric, Yugoslavian, Medieval French, Persian, Turkish, and Sumerian epic composition.

Anne Witten became an improvi-

sational performer in the vibrant lower Manhattan scene of the 1960's. She took New York by storm in the 1970's as a performance artist. She also gave performances in colleges, universities, theaters, and women's centers around the country. Witten also performed on National Public Radio and some of her works were placed on permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Anne Witten became a resident of Peaks Island, Maine in the 1980's and performed her sound poems throughout Southern Maine. Her sound poems were meant to be heard and interpreted by the listener. The often repeated words and phrases gave the listener the opportunity to create their own images. Witten's sound poems celebrated the joy and pas-

sion of female love as well as the pathos.

Anne Witten passed from this life at age forty-nine in 1992. It was far too soon for an artist of this talent and magnitude to leave us. Carved in her gravestone is a line from her sound poem "O Star."

"I am a Star." ΔΔ

## In Dar's Mortal City

by Aimsel L. Ponti

Dar Williams, the singer-songwriter from Western Massachusetts has just released her second album on the independent label, Razor & Tie. "Mortal City" is a superbly crafted, eleven song album. I remember her first album, the self-released "When I Was a Boy" from my college radio days in New Hampshire. I also remember seeing her play live at the student center in front of about 10 people. Last year, Razor & Tie signed her and re-issued the "When I was a Boy" album with an extra track on it. This album is one of my personal favorites from start to finish. Dar has a uniquely beautiful singing voice, high and sweet. Along with the acoustic guitar, Williams plays songs about gender roles, personal triumphs, tragedies and observations, not to mention love.

On this new album Williams picks up the pace with some electric guitars

on a few tracks along with drums, fiddles and mandolins. But she's at her best when the songs are stripped down. "February" off of "Mortal City" features Dar singing with soft guitar and cello and is my favorite off the album. When Dar hits a high note, eyes water and you're drawn into the soul of the song. That's what it's all about...

Dar Williams is on tour with Joan Baez, two generations of folk music represented on one stage. Originally slated for the State Theater, it looks like we'll have to wait and see if the show makes it to Portland.

Both of Dar Williams' albums are proof that she's more than worthy of all the attention folk music fans are giving her.

"And truth is just like time; it catches up, and it just keeps going..." from "As Cool as I Am" on "Mortal City." ΔΔ



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## Theatre Review: "Keeping Tom Nice"

**Mad Horse Theatre Company**  
**Through February 25, 1995**  
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by Chris Milliken

Profoundly challenged since birth, Tom is unable to speak, move, feed, bathe or clothe himself. Tom is utterly dependent upon his family. His parents, Doug and Winnie, have devoted their lives to caring for their son and have seen a legion of social workers, nurses, counselors, and doctors come and go for twenty-four years, each claiming to have Tom's best interests at heart. During this time both his parents have lost track of their own lives and become unknowing prisoners of their own devotion.

Time in this performance is expressed quite stylistically through a frame work of triptych-like monologues separated by dialogues. Episodes within the play are punctuated by the audience's

chance to here briefly what Tom might be thinking or saying if he were able. One experiences the melding of altruism and hedonism in all their forms. When hedonism is suppressed what trouble might be aroused?

At the core, "Keeping Tom Nice" addresses balance between caring for others and meeting one's needs. The intimate setting of Mad Horse's theatre heightens the tension created by four characters who are defined and wish to define themselves by a fifth, an "invalid." While invalid is not a term used today it most aptly describes not Tom but society's response to all the feelings and thoughts of all the characters in this production.

An aggressive social worker (J.D. Merritt), a guilt ridden sibling, (Tammy Duffy) a selfless mother (Cynthia Barnett) an envious father (Michael Howard), and a challenged

Tom (Scott Dennis) each tell their stories to the audience while the lack of communication between themselves creates the conflict and tragedy of this fine, if gut-wrenching performance.

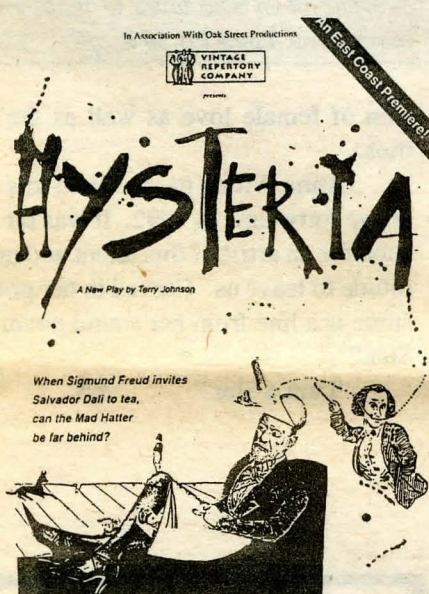
The cast of "Keeping Tom Nice" does a remarkable job of insuring that the individual message of each character is expressed clearly and distinctly. What could be deemed as stereotypical if done in a mediocre fashion, is brilliant and fresh because of the craftsmanship of these fine actors. It appears that Michael Rafkin has done a remarkable job at creating a team atmosphere whereby no one particular character stands out. The production conveys options and possibilities as our families, communities and the nation struggle to define how they care for all people regardless of their limitations or challenges. The play is poignant and timely.

"Keeping Tom Nice" was commissioned and first performed by the

Royal Shakespeare Company at the Alameda Theatre, London in 1988. The play went on to win the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for the best new play by a female author in 1989. Mad Horse is presenting the U.S. premier of this work.  $\Delta\Delta$



## Theatre Review:



**Vintage Repertory Company**  
**Directed by Bruce Pineau**

by Janis Tyderle

"Hysteria" is hysterical. That is, the play "Hysteria," which was recently presented at Oak Street Theatre. It was full of bizarre, yet thought-provoking, fun. Playwright Terry Johnson has taken an actual event from the end of Sigmund Freud's life — tea in his London study with surrealist painter Salvador Dali — and produced a funny, wild, energetic three-hour drama.

The Vintage Repertory Company

production, directed by Bruce Pineau, is well done, with some really fine acting. David Blair's 82 year old Freud is quite believable — hobbled by age and illness, crotchety, yet with his superb intellect intact, Freud tries to deal with the sudden appearance of an apparently psychotic young woman at his garden door, Dali's eccentricities, and the ministrations of his physician. Blair's portrayal captures the posture and movements of old age admirably.

Skip Emerson's Dali — with his "candid fanatical eyes" (according to Freud), wildly dramatic gesticulations and pronouncements, and surreal orientation to the world ("The first time I saw a woman's depilated armpit I was seeking heaven.") is fantastic. It would seem overdone, outrageous and unbelievable, but for the fact it captures the essence of Dali himself rather well.

Elizabeth Enck gives a commendable performance as Jessica, a young woman who pretends some psychosis in order to gain access to Freud, but who later proves to be the daughter of one of Freud's former patients — one of his "successes." Or is she? Maybe she is the figment of Freud's imagination, part of a sick old man's dream as he dozes on and off in his study late one afternoon waiting for tea. And if she is part of a dream, could it be that the great man himself had no doubts about some of his theories, some of his "successes"?

Christopher Price gives a solid performance as Freud's physician, Yahuda,

a steady, feet-planted-solidly-on-the-ground man whose head turns first one way and then the other as he tries to help his patient make sense of the zany goings on between Freud, Dali and Jessica.

All in all, this production gives an amusing evening of entertainment although at the length of three hours, it goes on a bit longer than I would have liked.  $\Delta\Delta$

## WOMEN'S FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL PORTLAND, MAINE

Portland, ME - The Third Annual Women's Film & Video Festival will take place at the Portland Museum of Art on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 1, 2 and 3. Featured will be two world premieres, eight Maine premieres, and a mini-retrospective of the work of nationally-recognized Maine Filmmaker, Jane Morrison. Morrison's work has not received a major Maine screening since her death in 1987 at the age of 40. Five of the featured filmmakers will be present at the screenings.

The program is a collaboration between the Portland Museum of Art, the Women's Film & Video Festival Committee and the Women's Studies Program at the University of Southern Maine. The Women's Film & Video Festival Committee is a volunteer group comprised of area filmmakers and film lovers. Last year's

program saw all 300 available seats filled for its second year. This year's schedule features a weekend-long program with a special opening night on Friday, March 1 at 6:00 PM featuring the world-premiere of "The Blinking Madonna," a film made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Portland-made film "Let the Caftans Flow."

Tickets are available in advance in Portland at Drop Me A Line, Amadeus Music and the admission desk at Portland Museum of Art. In Waterville, tickets can be purchased at the Railroad Square Cinema. Advance reservations are not available by phone. Weekend passes are \$25, Friday night \$10 including opening night reception, Saturday afternoon \$7, Saturday night \$5 and Sunday afternoon is \$5.

See FILM FEST, page 15

### STAR from page 13

Given undivided attention, they will reward the listener with a performance of a magnitude not available often. My only regret is that I never had the opportunity to hear these works performed live.

The voices of the other three performers are equally lovely to the ear.

Both pieces need to be listened to with concentration to capture the full beauty and power of this oral tradition.

Audio cassettes of "O Star" and "Touch Me" are available from Inbook at 1-800-243-0138 and Astarte Shell Press, POB 3648, Portland, Maine 04104-3648, or at 1-800-349-0941. The tape is also available at bookstores.



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## 3rd Annual Women's Film & Video Festival Schedule

**Friday, March 1, 6:00 - 9:00 PM**

**"All My Relations"** by Joanna Priestly: This charming film shows the evolution of relationships portrayed by ever-evolving animated figures. A delightful smorgasbord of sound and color. (7 minutes)

**"The Blinking Madonna & Other Miracles"** by Beth Harrington: This world premiere tells the true story of how a filmmaker recorded a purported miracle with her video camera and the subsequent media event that ensued. The "creative, non-fiction" film details the events of the summer of 1991, when a statue of the Virgin Mary blinked her eyes during an Italian-American religious feast in Boston and changed the life of a woman looking for a few good answers. (60 minutes)

**"Let The Caftans Flow"** by Betsy Carson and Kate Kaminski: The world-premiere of these Portland filmmakers' video homage to friendship and queer life-styles in small-city America. Upbeat, funny, and often touching, "Caftans" is, above all, a celebration of fabric, fun and song. (35 minutes)

**Premiere Night Celebration:** Reception included with price of ticket.

**Sat., March 2, 1:00 - 5:00 PM**

**"Pearl's Diner"** by Lynne Smith: An animated film that takes place in a small all-night diner. The story unfolds through the eyes of Pearl, the waitress. Although she tries to maintain an emotional distance from her customers, she can't help imagining what their feelings and thoughts might be. The critical moment comes when she has to decide

whether or not to act on her secret imaginings. Should she speak up and thereby risk interfering with the private lives of the people she serves? (14 minutes)

**"Leone's Sister, Gerri"** by Jane Gilooly: In graphic detail, this film tells the dramatic story of Gerri Santoro, a mother of two and the "real person" in the now famous police photo of an anonymous woman on a motel room floor, dead from an illegal abortion. Reprinted thousands of times on placards and in the media, this grisly photo became a pro-choice icon. Should the media have used this image? What circumstances led to Gerri's tragic death? Powerfully addressing issues of reproductive rights and domestic violence, this video is a moving portrait of Gerri Santoro's life and society's response to her death. This is a frank portrayal of an adult theme - attendance for young children is a parental discretion. (60 minutes)

**"Master Smart Woman"** directed by Jane Morrison: From the award-winning Maine filmmaker, this sensitive film is a much deserved re-evaluation of Sarah Orne Jewett's contribution to American literature. Recently rediscovered by feminist literary scholars, Jewett was a fiercely independent woman, a critically-acclaimed 19th century author and an important role model for a generation of women writers. Morrison composes a loving portrait, featuring stills from celebrated photographers, excellent critiques of Jewett's work and excerpts from her fiction and autobiographical writing. (30 minutes)

**"The White Heron"** by Jane

Morrison: A dramatic film based on the 1896 short story by Sarah Orne Jewett. A young girl's difficult choice between friendship and a creature she loves is the focus of this beautiful, poetic drams. (26 minutes)

**The Life and Work of Jane Morrison:** This discussion will place Jane Morrison's work in the context of her life and role in Maine and America's film making history.

**Sat., March 2, 7:00 - 9:00 PM**

**"The Two Worlds of Angelita"** by Jane Morrison: In Spanish with English subtitles, this rarely seen film presents the story of a young Puerto Rican family's difficult move to the Lower East Side barrio of New York City. Ms. Morrison's last feature film, "Angelita" was a Blue Ribbon winner at the 1987 American Film Festival. (73 minutes)

**"The F-Word"** by Marcia Jarmel and Erin Gallagher: Who swears by the F-word? Who's afraid of it? Cutting through the backlash and taking to the streets, this video is a snappy and provocative look at feminism today. Pithy interviews with women and men from diverse backgrounds are rhythmically interact with computer-animated quotes from the likes of Barbara Smith to Pat Robertson, all set to an upbeat rap accompaniment. Designed to open up attitudes, "The F-Word" proves feminism is still something worth talking about, hotly debated, widely misconstrued, but undeniable. (10 minutes)

**"Kalamazoo"** by Claudia Silver: This film paints a humorous picture of

love and life at the close of a long-term relationship. Will he call? How long can you wait for his call? Is this a great time to be in the theater? The film's star and her therapist grapple with these issues as post-college angst competes with a sense of humor. (30 minutes)

**Sunday, March 3, 1:00 - 4:00 PM**

**"Sister My Sister"** directed by Nancy Meckler: The shocking portrait of two sisters driven to pathological extremes by their incestuous yearnings and the oppressive confines of Victorian propriety. "Sister My Sister" was inspired by the remarkable true story that was also the basis for Jean Genet's much-produced play "The Maids." Joely Richardson and Jodhi May star as exemplary maidservants whose fastidious appearance and attention to duty are the light of their tyrannical new mistress, played by Julie Walters. Aware that her authority is slipping, the mistress resorts to greater cruelties against the sisters—until pressure finally reaches a shocking breaking point. (90 minutes)

**"Breaking the Silence: The Sisters of DeSales High School"** by Susan Pointon and Tommie Dell Smith: This compelling documentary reveals life behind the cloistered walls of a 150-year-old monastery, as it follows twelve elderly nuns preparing to face the outside world for the first time in their adult lives. A rare and intimate insight into a way of life that may soon be gone forever, the film raises important questions about the changing role of women in society and what happens to those whose roles no longer have the same value. (60 minutes)

## Singin' Out!

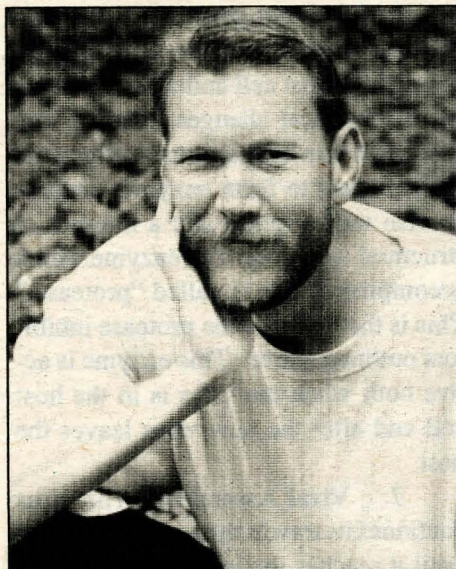
Stick something queer in you ear

by Martin Swinger

OK, we all know about k.d. Lang, Indigo Girls, Melissa Etheridge, Janis Ian and Michael Stipe. More and more mainstream artists are coming out after stardom and my hat is off to them. My interest here is not the gay superstars of today so much as the gay superstars of tomorrow. There are out new artists across the country searching for friendly ears. It seems to me that very few people in southern Maine even know that such a genre as 'gay music' exists, or why it might be desirable.

The second part is easy: I want to hear a man sing his love to another man because that's how my heart sings. I want to hear a woman sing her love for another woman because it strengthens my vision of a world where love is good no matter who the recipient may be.

The first part is getting easier - slowly. The word is getting out in the 'big' cities that gay music is here. Last year, New York City celebrated 'Gay Music Month' in October with a full



calendar of music events from "A Night of GLAMA" (Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards featuring Pansy Division and Disappear Fear) to coffee-house, church and bookstore venues featuring local and out of towners concerts.

A Different Light Bookstore in New York City and Lambda Rising in

DC offer queer music CD's and cassettes to sample, but since we can't all rush right down to New York and sample the wall of lavender sound, I'd like to offer some exciting (and affordable) opportunities to hear new gay music that are as close as your mailbox:

OUT SOUNDS c/o Will Grega  
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See SINGIN' page 19

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# To Your Health:

## Readers Write & Lesbian Health Project Offers 2nd Clinic



by Tania Jo Hathaway

Last month's column discussed good fats and bad fats as well as ways to reduce fat intake. The formula to calculate the percentage of calories from fat was inadvertently left out; you will find it printed on this page. Here are a few suggestions from readers regarding cookbooks and fat intake:

R.B., a medical doctor in Portland and former gourmet cook, writes "... now a vegan cook [consuming no meat or dairy products] I've gone through at least 100 [cookbooks]. ... the best so far is by Dean Ornish, MD—"Eat More, Weigh Less." The recipes come from people around the country and are really good, although not necessarily quickly prepared. I find there are very few [pre-packaged, pre-prepared] meals I can use - either too much salt, too many

strange additives that just don't taste as good as "real" food — i.e., garden veggies. Keep up the good work and encourage people to eat less than 10% fat calories a day; 20% is still way too high."

P.B. from Augusta says, "It's a struggle to find good-tasting, low-fat meals, so a good cookbook is a worthwhile investment. Recently I have discovered The "Wellness Low-fat Cookbook" by the editors of the University of California at Berkeley's Wellness Letter."

W.B. from Portland writes "You have to be careful of vegetarian cookbooks — some recipes may be high in fat since they call for too much cheese or sour cream or too much cooking oil. If a recipe calls for too much cheese, etc., I simply cut it in half to lower fat intake. One of my favorite cookbooks is "Quick Vegetarian Pleasures" by Jeanne Lemlin. Her recipes are made in 30 minutes or less (not including time for cooking beans, rice, etc.)."

Thanks to our readers for sending

in tips for low-fat eating!

### Lesbian Health Project Offers Cancer Screening Clinic

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, in conjunction with Tri-County Health Services of Lewiston, is offering its second cancer screening clinic for lesbians on Saturday, April 27, 1996 from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Last year's clinic served 16 lesbians ranging geographically from Portland to Turner, many of whom were drawn to the offer of clinical services "for lesbians, by lesbian or lesbian-knowledgeable practi-

tioners." Ninety percent of the lesbians served returned surveys designed to measure satisfaction with services; the majority were very satisfied with staff, services and follow-up.

This year's clinic will offer a pelvic exam, pap smear, breast exam, and referral. Services are offered free of charge by lesbian or lesbian-knowledgeable practitioners. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine at (207) 657-5864.

Tania Jo Hathaway is the Coordinator of the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine. For information: PO Box 11048 Portland ME 04104. (207) 657-5864.

### Calculating the Percentage of Calories from Fat

1. Grams of fat in the food serving times 9 = number of calories from fat
2. Number of calories from fat divided by total number of calories in the food serving.
3. Multiply by 100 to get the percentage of calories from fat.

Use this formula to calculate one food serving, or add all the calories and grams of fat for one day and calculate calories from fat for that day. A 'liberal' estimate aims for 30% calories from fat; many whole food gurus advise 20-25% calories from fat.

## Protease Inhibitors: The latest defense against HIV

by Victor R. Rash, MSW

Emily Dickens said in a poem that "Hope is the thing with bright feathers." In the last couple of weeks a few bright feathers have emerged in the fight against HIV disease. This new information is the result of the FDA approving a new generation of anti-HIV drugs called protease inhibitors. The first of this group of drugs to be approved has the trade name of Invirase and the generic name of Saquinavir. It is produced by Hoffmann-LaRoche, Ltd., a Swiss pharmaceutical company. Other companies currently seeking FDA approval for protease inhibitors include Abbott Laboratories of Illinois (generic name: Ritonavir), Merck Research Laboratories of Pennsylvania (trade name: Crixivan; generic name: Indinavir sulfate), and Agouron Pharmaceutical of California (trade name: Viracept).

So what is so hopeful about all this? According to Brian Marcotte, Ph.D., a biologist who has researched these new drugs extensively and has supplied the information for this article, one must first understand the background and development of the life cycle of HIV to understand how protease inhibitors work and how they differ from older drugs such as AZT, ddI and ddC. He

explains these steps as follows:

1. **Viral Attachment:** HIV attaches itself to a host cell, (usually a white blood cell called a T-helper or CD4-cell). The virus attaches itself to the outside of the cell via receptors used by the host cell as a way of communicating with the outside world.

2. **Uncoating the Virus:** In this step the virus "uncoats" itself and enters inside the host cell.

3. **Reverse Transcription:** The genetic material of the virus is in the form of a complex chemical, RNA; the host cell's genetic material is in the form of a ribbon-like chemical, DNA. The genetic material of the virus must be "transcribed" into DNA before it can productively infect the host cell. To do this the virus produces an enzyme "reverse transcriptase" which transcribes the viral RNA into viral DNA. This enzyme is the target of the first generation of anti-HIV drugs such as AZT, ddI, ddC, 3TC, and d4T. These drugs interfere with the ability of the virus to produce a DNA transcription of its genetic material and thus slow or stop the virus life cycle.

4. **Integration:** At this stage the viral DNA must be integrated into the host cell's DNA. To do this, the virus

produces an enzyme called "integrase". It cuts the host's ribbon-like DNA, inserts itself, and then reconnects the DNA. (Integrase is a target for other drugs still in laboratory studies at this time)

5. **Viral Reproduction and Viral Protein Production:** Once inserted, the viral DNA is called a "provirus". The provirus uses the genetic reproductive and protein production machinery of the host cell to produce millions of RNA and protein copies of itself. Various parts of the provirus regulate viral reproduction, and these, too, are targets of laboratory studies and drug design.

6. **Viral Protein Cleavage:** Once copies of the viral genetic material and proteins have been made, they migrate through the host cell undergoing a number of chemical changes. During this process, some of the virus proteins are broken apart to form enzymes such as reverse transcriptase and a number of structural elements. The enzyme which accomplishes this is called "protease." This is the target of the protease inhibitors outlined above. This enzyme is active both when the virus is in the host cell and after the new virus leaves the host.

7. **Viral Assembly:** The virus continues its travels through the host cell until it reaches the inner surface of the host cell's membrane. Here the virus proteins and genetic material are assembled into an immature virus.

8. **Viral Budding:** Finally the virus leaves the host cell in a process called "budding." The virus is pinched off the host cell's outer membrane and either floats freely in body fluids awaiting attachment to the CD4 receptors on another host cell or crosses over from

one host cell to another through cell-to-cell contact. The viral life cycle begins again.

In this outline of the HIV life cycle, protease inhibitors are active both inside the host cell and in the maturing virus once it leaves the host. Without protease and when protease is only partially inhibited, copies of the virus are malformed and non-infectious. The life cycle ends or viral production is substantially slowed. This is why protease is such an attractive target for drug therapies.

Scientists refer to the amount of virus in terms of viral loads which they measure by "logs." In short 1 log equals 90% reduction of the virus, 2 logs equals 99% reduction, and 3 logs equals 99.9% reduction.

In clinical studies of Saquinavir (Hoffman-LaRoche's protease inhibitor), 40 patients with CD4 counts between 200 and 500 were given either 3600 mg per day or 7200 mg per day of Saquinavir. The 20 patients receiving the lower dose had a minimum decrease in viral load of 1.04 log with sustained reductions (24 weeks) of 0.48 log and a maximum increase in CD4 counts of 74 cells. The other 20 patients receiving the higher dose had a maximum decrease in viral load of 1.34 log, sustained at 0.58 log at week 24 and maximum increase in CD4 counts of 121 cells. Those data indicate that Saquinavir monotherapy requires a very high dose for sustained benefits. All studies using FDA approved dose of 1800 mg per day showed poor results.

In Abbott's protease inhibitor study, patients received a three-drug

See DEFENSE, page 19

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# Maine AIDS Plan

A Blueprint for Action

In our continuing effort to bring a portion of "The Maine AIDS Plan" to our readers, we are reprinting two Action Steps which may serve as a catalyst for your activism.

"People with HIV, those who care about them, and those who have yet to pay much attention to HIV/AIDS can be found in all settings throughout Maine. For the sake of organization, the framers of this "Plan" [The Maine AIDS Plan] arranged these settings into seven distinct categories, and then proceeded to explore ways in which HIV prevention and treatment could be most effectively carried out in each of them. It is important to realize that there is room in all Maine settings for appropriate and effective HIV awareness building, and that every effort will help. In addition, all settings can benefit by connecting with their national associations and local AIDS service organizations (ASO's). Staff of ASOs can provide a wide range of excellent resources, training, materials, speakers and model policies.

**WORKPLACES:** Nationally, 1 in 10 employers with fewer than 500 employees already has an employee with HIV infection or AIDS.

In Maine, as more persons test positive for HIV each year, the impact will increase — on employers, workers, worksites and the overall economy. HIV affects short-and long-term disability costs, life insurance and pension plan

payouts, as well as recruitment, hiring and training costs. Violations of the rights of HIV+ persons can further reduce employee productivity and lead to lawsuits.

- All workplace settings:
  - \* Implement HIV education program for employees.
  - \* Develop comprehensive HIV policies concerning employment and disability. Policies should address: confidentiality, infection control, support services and benefits for all chronically ill employees

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:** Adolescents and young adults are contracting HIV at higher rates than other age groups. Lack of information does not seem to be the main problem. The Department of Education estimates show that 98% of in-school teens are aware of HIV and how to prevent it.

The challenge is getting teens to change their sexual behavior. Even though 98% of high schools and 94% of middle schools offer basic HIV education, too few HIV programs progress beyond basic information. School communities may be unaware of the rights of an infected employee or student — or their responsibilities to them.

- Maine Department of Education (Division of Instruction):
  - \* Require all education settings to have HIV policy and education programs for both staff and students.

\* Encourage education programs to promote respect for diversity and debunk HIV myths and misinformation.

- Maine Department of Education (Division of Certification):

- \* Teach all candidates how to integrate HIV into the curriculum;
- \* Require specialized HIV prevention training for health educators.

- All educational settings:
  - \* Develop a written policy concerning: HIV safety procedures; confidentiality for students and staff living with HIV.

\* Implement health education curricula for all grade levels that include values clarification, sexuality information and specific behavior skills for HIV prevention.

- All adults and youth in educational settings:

- \* Learn and use basic universal precautions.

- Local leaders, school board members, parents, faculty, staff and students:

- \* Support health clinic services in providing sexual health screening and treatment and prevention services, including condom availability.

**Physical Health Care Sites:** While the health care sector has been among the most active in dealing with the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, few primary care practitioners in

Maine have treated a patient with HIV/AIDS. Residents in rural areas may have to travel long distances to obtain anonymous testing and counseling, or other HIV treatment.

Local health care facilities need to assume responsibility for HIV/AIDS care, from testing and counseling to end-stage nursing home or hospice care. Breaches in confidentiality are of utmost concern in rural areas, where disclosure of someone's HIV status can lead to loss of employment and insurance, and estrangement from family, friends and community:

Many health care providers need to broaden their level of comfort with gays/bisexuals and their issues.

- All health care sites and their staffs:

- \* Provide risk assessment and counseling;

- \* Make condoms available to the public on-site;

- \* Care for persons with HIV/AIDS in your facilities.

- All health care sites are workplaces:

\* Have a comprehensive, written HIV policy in place that: maintains confidentiality of employee medical records; observes non-discriminatory policies for HIV+ employees; and provides employees with education programs about personal and occupational exposures.

- Health care providers and third party payers:

- \* Encourage home-based patient care for persons with HIV/AIDS.

(Next month, ACTION STEPS for Public Places, Residential Settings, Social Services, Mental Health Practitioners and Substance Abuse Treatment Providers, and Civic and Social Organizations and Communities of Faith.) ΔΔ

## Portland's Mercy Hospital offering more services

Portland, ME - Mercy Hospital's new Breast Health Resource Center opened on January 8 offering a broad range of educational, consultative, and support services for women concerned about breast health. Working closely with other related Mercy services, including mammography, surgery, oncology/chemotherapy and social services, the Center's goal is to create well-coordinated, comprehensive breast care, consistent with their mission to provide compassionate, highly personalized care, with respect for human dignity. Women may be referred to Mercy's Breast Health Resource center by their physician or may call the Center directly at 207/879-3790. The Breast Health Resource Center will function under the direction of Melinda Molin, MD, and coordinator, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Cathy McDonald, RN.

"Caring and Sharing," a support group sponsored by Mercy Hospital, provides mutual support for cancer patients and survivors. The emphasis is on caring, growth and hope through social participation. The group meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, 9:00 to 11:00 am. Group facilitators are Beth Connelly, RN and Dawn Trombley, RN

from Mercy's Outpatient Oncology Center. For more information, call 207/879-3030.

"Coping with Caregiving" is a support group meeting at Mercy Hospital. If you are providing care to a chronically/terminally ill or disabled person, experiencing feelings of frustration and burn out, attend this group and learn more about how to take care of yourself as well as those for whom you are caring.

The purpose of the support group is to provide a place for you to come and confidentially share concerns and experiences. In a facilitated, open discussion format, you may find insights into such things as stress management, asking for help, how to recognize your limitations and other important issues.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Fridays monthly at noon in the Mercy Hospital Board Room, 6th floor. For more information, call 207/879-3486.

The Portland Street Clinic, located in the Community Resource Center at 15 Portland Street, provides free, comprehensive health care for adults with limited income who have no insurance or doctor. The Clinic is open evenings from 5:00 - 9:00 PM, Mondays through Thursdays by

appointment. The Clinic is sponsored by Mercy Hospital and administered by the City of Portland Public Health Division. The staff works closely with Mercy Hospital and other health care providers to arrange whatever tests or medical procedures patients need. All of the services are free.

(Editor's note: I have been a client of the Portland Street Clinic for approximately two months. In that time I have had X-rays, physical therapy, medication, an evaluation for a pulmonary condition,

an EKG, laboratory work, and an eye examination. The providers, on site and off site have been outstanding. The staff at the Clinic are also outstanding. There is not a hint of judgment or condescension either because one has limited funds or because of sexual orientation. In speaking with a staff member, she said, "We want to be of help to many more people than we're currently serving. We need to get the word out." Well, the word is out. I encourage those in our communities who need this kind of medical resource to call them ASAP. Tell them you read about them in CPR. Call 207/874-8982.) ΔΔ

### MARCH MADNESS

Live shows every Friday!

- |      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| 3/1  | Val Bennett            |
| 3/8  | Mona                   |
| 3/15 | Dustin Ladale          |
| 3/29 | Benefit for SpringFest |
- Various local artists

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- |        |                                     |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Wed.   | 69¢ Foreplay drink specials 8-10 pm |
| Thurs. | Line dancing with Linda. 8 pm Free. |
| Fri.   | Happy Hour Buffets                  |
| Sat.   | Top 40's dancing 9 pm. \$3 cover.   |
| Sun.   | Karaoke with Lucien 8 pm.           |

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# AIDS in the 90s

by Peter Catalano & David Scondras

For the first time since the AIDS epidemic began, we finally seem to have gotten a real break in fighting this disease. With new strategies and new drugs on hand, it may be time for you to change the way you think about your health if you are HIV+. And to get tested if there's even a remote possibility you've gotten the virus. Today there's more reason for hope than at any other time since the AIDS virus first appeared.

We say this because accumulating data indicate that there may be a way to prevent HIV infections from progressing to AIDS for a much longer period of time than previously thought. This strategy can be called "contain and boost." It entails using anti-viral drugs early in the game to inhibit HIV from replicating and infecting new cells — boxing it in — while at the same time stimulating the body's own immune system to recover from the damage.

Fortunately, the drugs that can accomplish much of this strategy are either available today or will be available in the coming months. In the meantime, there are several effective combinations that can start the job of suppressing HIV replication now.

There's more. Tools for measuring how much HIV is swirling around in the bloodstream are now commercially available. That allows you to monitor viral levels and use anti-viral drugs to smash down HIV when it starts multiplying to the danger threshold. All this is good news and the AIDS Writer's Group will be publishing details in a monthly series which will be carried in the Community Pride Reporter. Having consulted with a number of scientists and physicians, we want you to understand some of the ideas and therapies coming on-line so you can go to your health provider and, together, work out a treatment plan.

This whole process of education and treatment, however, is a little tricky. A lot of the tools and strategy we're going to tell you about are pretty new; some of them anticipate where treatment will be two or three years from now.

Since this is the cutting edge, there's also some degree of uncertainty. And to be honest, there is not complete unanimity among researchers on AIDS treatment issues. For these reasons, many doctors are reluctant to promote new approaches very hard.

On the other hand, many HIV+ people don't have years to wait around until absolutely certain answers are in. Right now it looks as if the viral containment and immune booster strategy is the best bet. It could buy you valuable time as fast-breaking research unfolds and resolves uncertainty.

Unfortunately, people who could benefit from new insights are avoiding medical care. Some are skeptical and even fatalistic. There is, of course, some basis for these attitudes. Until now there wasn't very much you could do during the asymptomatic period of HIV infection the so-called "latency" period.

Typical medical advice given to people is to live a healthy lifestyle and wait until your immune levels fall low enough to warrant anti-viral therapy such as AZT.

By default, a great deal of medical

effort went into finding ways to control or prevent various opportunistic infections which arise once the immune system is severely damaged by the virus. However, before that happens someone who's positive may feel fine and remain asymptomatic for years; yet, unrelenting damage to the lymph node component of the immune system is underway. Scientists and doctors now believe that intervention in the so-called "latency period" is critical. But until now medicine hasn't had much to offer until people get really sick. This picture has considerably changed in the past two years.

## "Combination therapy" critical -

Scientists now believe that increases in the "viral load" (a measure of the amount of virus in the blood) is correlated with a drop in CD4 cells (white blood cells sometimes called "helper" T cells). CD4 counts, the level of viral load, and the rate at which viral load increases, currently appear to be the most significant and clear markers of disease progression.

Knowing your viral load is important. Commercial labs can now measure the amount of virus in your blood by one of two techniques — either "PCR" or "branch DNA testing." Levels less than 100,000 HIV particles (per thousandth of a liter of blood) on these tests are associated with clinical stability. More than 100,000 is cause for concern, since people with this degree of viral load tend to suffer damage to the immune system. With this information, the goal is to "manage" viral load so it stays low, with 10,000 probably being a suitable target.

Question: Is there a way to get the amount of virus in your body down? It looks like the answer to this is yes! That's accomplished by using two or more anti-viral drugs at once: "combination" therapy. In fact no anti-viral should ever be used without another

complementary drug — and that emphatically includes AZT — because HIV quickly develops resistance when it's used alone ("monotherapy").

Using many drugs at once may sound daunting, but it's necessary since HIV rapidly outflanks single drug therapies. That's because the virus changes

('mutates') so fast that it becomes resistant to particular anti-virals.

The problem with monotherapy is that if a single strain is knocked out by a single drug, say AZT, the other remaining strains rapidly reproduce to fill the void. (Which, incidentally, is why safe sex should be practiced all the time to avoid introducing additional strains into the body even after an initial HIV infection.)

The results of new combo-therapies are impressive. One pairing — for example, AZT and 3TC — reduces virus by more than 90% for over 40 weeks. By contrast, AZT alone reduces virus by only 40% for perhaps several months.

The effects of AZT/3TC on CD4 levels also lasts longer and are quite pronounced. This combination raises CD4s twice as much as the boost from AZT alone, for about a year — that's as long as the study trials have run so far. Ultimately the effect could be much longer. Of course, results vary from person to person. And remember, AZT/3TC is only one of many possible combinations available today.

Meanwhile, a whole new class of anti-virals — protease inhibitors — operates to disrupt the life cycle of HIV much differently than AZT-type drugs while kicking up CD4 levels quite dramatically.

Together they promise to be a very effective one-two punch. However, protease, in particular, should always be used in combination with other drugs because resistance develops very rapidly.

Next question: Is it possible to raise the number of CD4s in your body beyond the boost that anti-virals deliver? It looks as though the answer to this is yes, too!

Among so-called immune based therapies there's a great deal of potentially high-impact work coming to fruition. These immune therapies try to

strengthen the immune system so it can withstand, they recover from attacks by HIV and keep on fighting.

## PERSONAL INITIATIVES NEEDED

Using these therapies is complicated but there's very promising medical evidence it can be done. Some, the cytokine manipulation type, are already available e.g. interleukin-2 ("IL-2"). We'll discuss how IL-2 can be used and about its side-effects, which may be substantial.

Besides IL-2, other intriguing immune bases therapies include therapeutic vaccines, TNF inhibitors and CD4 expansion. Some, such as Thalidomide and hydroxyurea (the latter in a pharmacological class all its own) enhance the effectiveness of standard anti-virals in further suppressing viral load and are readily available. All these drugs are useful in supporting a viral load management strategy. The result is fewer mutations.

Refining the use of anti-virals and immune therapies does pose big questions. For example, scientists aren't sure when to go all-out with drug therapies: right after initial HIV infection or should they be saved for later use? Should therapies be used continuously or taken in short duration then pulsed again week and months later? Will this dosing avoid toxicities and side effects from these drugs?

These are the big research issues. In the meanwhile your doctor can help you decide the best course according to your medical circumstances. However, the biggest problem you'll encounter is not a medical one per se. Quite simply, you won't get access to the newest drugs and the viral load test itself for some time without taking personal initiatives. It does take effort to put together all the pieces of an advanced treatment play. Throughout this series we'll explain how to work the system and get access to these medicines and viral load tests.

Finally, if you want the latest information right now instead of waiting to read each monthly segment in this series, call the AIDS Action Committee's Research Library (617/4450-1432). The library has great resources to assist you in understanding the options out there.

Never has there been so much cause for swift action if you're HIV+ or think you might be. The times demand your involvement: both in getting your own treatment and in politically pushing for access to promising therapies. There is a lot happening and keeping you from getting AIDS is the whole reason why we've taken this initiative. Please don't lose hope now.

Individuals interested in helping speed up the research efforts, are encouraged to check with the Boston based Search for a Cure (617/536-2474) for new information on the political context of the struggle to get access to new therapies, and to discover the specific barriers slowing the research efforts.

(David Scondras was a Boston city councilor for 10 years and is now president of the Search For A Cure Foundation. Peter Catalano is a journalist and critic and writes about science, medicine and cultural issues for national newspapers and magazines.)

# Reasons for HOPE



## DEFENSE, from page 16

regimen of the protease inhibitor: Ritonavir plus AZT plus ddC. These patients had increased CD4 counts of 110 cells and a 2.5 log decrease in viral burden after 20 weeks. These results indicate that the combination of these three drugs may be more effective than one of the protease inhibitors alone.

In the Merck's protease inhibitor study, Indinavir Sulfate plus AZT lowered viral burden by 2.5 log at 24 weeks. In another study, Indinavir plus AZT plus ddI reduced viral burden 99.9%! This is the best result to date.

So now you must be asking yourself, what does all of this mean? For some time now we have been hearing that HIV will most likely become a "treatable chronic illness" and that short of a miracle it will stay that way for years to come. This seems to be the first major step in treating HIV as a chronic illness.

The important aspect to remember is that this is not a cure, but a new series of treatments. According to Dr. Marcotte the most effective way to fight the virus is to give it a multiple punch all at once; however, if you are not at the point where you can wait a year or two longer for newer treatments, you may want to consider treatment sooner. Dr. Marcotte believes that protease inhibitors that have yet to receive FDA approval will be stronger and far more effective.

I asked him why the T-cell count of these participants did not return to normal, given the reduction of viral load in their blood. He informed me that the virus has a reservoir in the brain which

is part of the reason why T-cells don't return to normal. He stressed that it is very important to include drugs such as AZT or ddI with the protease inhibitors, because the protease inhibitors do not stop the virus from entering the brain, as does AZT d4T (Epivir), and the other drugs commonly used.

An important point that Dr. Marcotte stressed was that although Saquinavir is the first protease inhibitor to be approved by the FDA, it is by no means the best protease inhibitor. Indinavir and Ritonavir seem much more powerful in clinical trials, and viral resistance develops much more slowly. The combination of Indinavir and AZT plus ddI reduced viral burdens in blood by 99.9%. This is almost antibiotic! But Indinavir does not get into the brain, and there may be other reservoirs of the virus from which it will emerge if treatment stops.

Combinations of protease inhibitors and reverse transcriptase inhibitors (such as AZT, d4T, and ddI) may be more effective than protease inhibitor monotherapies. When Saquinavir was combined with ritonavir, the blood concentrations of saquinavir increased 290 fold! Thus, combinations of combinations may become the rule.

Simultaneously hitting HIV at three or four locations in its life cycle may be essential for long-term control and possibly elimination of the virus from the body. Exposing patients to a sequence of different types of inhibitors and allowing the virus to develop resistance to each in turn seems a poor treatment strategy. In several years a simul-

taneous, multiple-target strategy may be possible. For today's patients with CD4 counts below 200 cells per mm<sup>3</sup>, there may be no alternative to sequential exposure. For these persons, protease inhibitors should be added to their drug regimen only after careful consideration of changes in marker of immune system health, available drug combination alternatives and dosing levels. If a patient can wait long enough for approval of Indinavir or Ritonavir (possibly late in 1996 or early in 1997), probably he or she should wait. However, if one's CD4 cell count is crashing now, Saquinavir at the highest dose affordable (ideally 7200 mg per day based on present research findings) should be added to a combination of reverse transcriptase inhibitors as outlined above.

In addition, Dr. Marcotte stressed the importance of finding a doctor who is familiar with the latest research on HIV disease. Recent studies have shown a correlation between doctors who have a knowledge of the latest treatments for HIV and longevity of the patient. Choosing the right doctor makes a crucial difference.

All of this is very exciting news. This is not the first time that a new drug has created excitement and then didn't live up to expectations. But protease inhibitors seem different; there seems to be more of a consensus regarding their effectiveness. Furthermore, at this point in clinical studies, they appear to have minimal side effects: mostly gastric reflux and kidney stones if the patient does not drink at least 1.5 liters of fluid each day; however, we do not know the long-

term effects of protease inhibitors.

The other issue involving this treatment is the cost. According to "The New York Times," (Tuesday, February 6, 1996), the cost of Saquinavir is estimated to be \$7,000 per year for the FDA-approved dose. Four times this dose (and four times the cost!) may be necessary to achieve best result and to avoid viral resistance. This issue may best be resolved in a later article, but it is a serious consideration for many persons with HIV who are on disability. Collectively we must safeguard against becoming a society of those who can afford treatment and stay healthy and those who cannot.

Understanding this virus is difficult. Because of the importance and complexity of this new finding, The AIDS Project (TAP) is responding with a workshop with Dr. Marcotte. The first workshop will be directed at professionals and those with some background in nursing, medicine or biology on Saturday, March 2, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The second workshop will be directed at the general public on Saturday, March 9, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Both workshops are scheduled to take place at TAP. For more information or to register for either of these events, please call Victor at TAP (207/774-6877). These events are free, but space is limited.

Dr. Brian Marcotte is a Ph.D. in Biology. This article was primarily taken from the research that he has done.

Victor R. Rash, MSW, Community Educator — The AIDS Project. ΔΔ

## SINGIN' from page 15

pals with the next Melissa Etheridge. My experience with these artists has been prompt, positive and often includes a personal note inviting feedback. OUT SOUNDS offered a sampler cassette from 1994 which turned me on to some of my favorite music today.

## OUTMUSIC

P O Box 1575

New York, New York 10013

Finally, for all of us wanna be superstar . . . an organization to feed that habit. Outmusic offers monthly meetings, song swaps and concerts in New York and Philadelphia which are hard to attend from Maine (and wouldn't I love to), but newsletters of upcoming events offer encouragement that there is an intelligent listening audience out there. There are opportunities in the big cities for showcasing (if you have the nerve), and many of the members will gladly trade tapes with you and offer feedback and support. I've made many new friends and increased my music collection tremendously. Let's start our own chapter of Outmusic in Maine . . .

Thanks to the organizers of Portland and Bangor Pride and the fund raising efforts of Maine Won't Discriminate, we've been treated to a growing number of gay musicians here in Maine, and I suspect there may be many more in the

wings. Does Maine have the courage (interest) to support what could be a nationwide movement to let our voices be heard? We've shown our support to the Gay Men's Chorus and the Flirtations, but what about all the new voices? We ask the world to open their minds and hearts to us, can we open our hearts and ears to each other and listen to our love singing?

If you are a gay musician, drop me a line. Let's get the word out. There is strength in numbers. If you are interested in new gay music, please check out the above resources and support your brothers and sisters by sharing the new music with your friends. If you have information about gay music events in Maine, please let me know so we can spread the word. If we create the demand for our music, the music stores, book stores, and performance venues will naturally follow. If we wait to hear it on the radio, we won't hear it. Let's play gay music in our cars, kitchens, bars and bookstores, share the music with our local D.J.'s and make what we hear in our hearts what we hear all around us too.

Next month: more sampler recordings and some live gay music events to warm up our winter evenings. Til then, keep SINGIN' OUT!

## AIDS doesn't care, but The AIDS Project does.

Therefore, we are responding to the community's needs by offering two workshops on promising new drug therapies.

The first workshop will be directed at professionals and those with some background in nursing, medicine, or biology on Saturday, March 2, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The second workshop will be directed at the general public on Saturday, March 9, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Both workshops are scheduled to take place at TAP. For more information or to register for either of these events, please call Victor at TAP (774-6877).

These events are free, but space is limited.

(Editor's Note: Martin Swinger is "an insider in the gay music scene," and hopes that the 'scene' will grow more active and closer to home. Swinger has performed at many fund-raisers for the community from PRIDE to Maine Won't Discriminate events locally and Stonewall '95 in DC. He has a tape, "Singin' OUT!", for \$10 and is available for bookings. Write Martin Swinger, 150 Spring Street, Gardiner, ME 04345. He is interested in facilitating networking for local, new gay artists and fostering support for the new life of gay music within our state and country. He will be presenting a series of articles in CPR over the next few months on the genre' of gay music.) ΔΔ

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# FEBRUARY - MARCH '96 CALENDAR

## MARCH

### Wednesday, February 21:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

•Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

### Thursday, February 22:

•Δ 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents, "We're Here, We're Queer, We're Pink Behind the Ears," with youth from OUTRIGHT speaking about their experiences of not feeling safe or welcome in the adult gay community. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Free hotel parking, accessible to mobility impaired.

### Friday, February 23:

ΔΔ Day trip: Chiltern Mountain Club cross-country skis in White Mountains of NH. Call John, 617/648-9185.

### Saturday, February 24:

ΔΔ Day trip: Chiltern Mountain Club cross country skis Bretton Woods at the base of Mt. Washington, NH. Call Mike 603/644-7658.

•Δ 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

ΔΔ 7:30 PM - NLN hosts Men's Night in New Sweden. FMI, 207/498-2088.

ΔΔ 8:00 PM - Benefit dance sponsored by OUT AND ABOUT, a lesbian social and support group in NH. Dance will benefit the "Rainbow Net." Dance til midnight at United Methodist Church in Portsmouth NH. Tickets are \$6.50, all are welcome. FMI: 603/772-8045.

### Sunday, February 25:

•Δ 8:00 AM - Cross Country Skiing sponsored by EMS Winter Clinic Series. All skill levels, location TBA. Bring your own skis or use some of ours. Call 207/772-3776. Limit is 10 so call early.

### Monday, February 26:

•Δ 6:30 PM - Cumberland Chapter of Maine Won't Discriminate meets at St. Lukes Cathedral, State St., Portland. Your input is needed. Join us!

### Wednesday, February 28:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights sponsors its second meeting of 1996 in the Portland area for volunteer speakers. Meeting will include some additional training for speakers who have had initial training. Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. Interested persons call 207/879-0480.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

•Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

### Friday, March 1:

ΔΔ Day trip: Chiltern Mountain Club cross-country skis in White Mountains of NH. Call John, 617/648-9185.

•Δ 7:00 PM - Second Anniversary fundraiser party being held by Oak Street Theatre. Happy hour prior to variety show at 8:00 PM. 92 Oak Street, Portland. FMI: 207/775-5103. Cost of tickets is \$15.

### Saturday, March 2:

•Δ 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

ΔΔ 6:30 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Pot Luck Supper, Caswell. FMI, 207/498-2088.

### Sunday, March 3:

•Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - Plymouth (NH) PFLAG meeting. Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI: 603/968-7254 or 603/786-9812.

### Monday, March 4:

•Δ 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

### Tuesday, March 5:

•Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - Seacoast (NH) PFLAG meeting. Stratham Community Church, Emery Lane, Stratham, NH. FMI: 603/772-3893 or 5196.

ΔΔ 7:30-8:30 PM - Gay and lesbian AA Meeting at The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

### Wednesday, March 6:

•Δ 6:00-9:00 PM - Course in CPR for adults, children and infants offered at Mercy Hospital, 144 State St., Portland. Designed for individuals who are not medical professionals. Course follows guidelines set by American Heart Association. \$20 per person, pre-registration required. Call 207/879-3536 to register or FMI.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

•Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

### Thursday, March 7:

•Δ 7:00 PM - Map & compass/GPS skills will be taught at Eastern Mountain Sports as part of its Winter Clinic Series. Get ready for some off-trail adventures. Learn basic map and compass skills. Maine Mall store. 207/772-3776.

### Fri., March 8 & Sat., March 9:

•Δ 6:30-9:30 PM & 9:00 AM-2:00 PM - Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights offers Speaker Training. Training co-sponsored by Portland PFLAG, \$10 per person (includes Saturday session, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM).

### Saturday, March 9:

•Δ 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

### Sunday, March 10:

ΔΔ 1:00-3:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord's monthly business meeting. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI: 207/498-2088.

### Monday, March 11:

ΔΔ 6:30 PM - Rainbow Business and Professional Association networking meeting. Italian Heritage Center, Congress Street, Portland. (Behind Westgate Shaw's). FMI: 207/775-0077. \$4 members, \$5 non-members.

•Δ 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

### Tuesday, March 12:

•Δ 7:00 PM - Portland Chapter of PFLAG meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords Corner. We are parents, friends and relatives of lesbians, bisexual, gay and transgendered persons offering support and education. FMI, Rita-207/766-5158 or Sue-207/774-3441.

### Wednesday, March 13:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

•Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

### Thursday, March 14:

•Δ 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents, "What do Lesbians and Tortillas Have In Common?" Come hear about how lesbians are at the forefront of women's rights movements around the world. Robin Melavalin, photographer, cultural anthropologist and lesbian world traveler shares stories. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. Free hotel parking, accessible to the mobility impaired.

### Friday, March 15:

•Δ 6:00-8:00 PM - Preview of auction pieces for the 10th Annual Spring for Life Art Auction on Saturday. Free of charge, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland.

### Saturday, March 16:

ΔΔ Day trip: Chiltern Mountain Club cross country skis at Jackson, NH. Trails free; rentals available. Call Mike, 603/644-7658.

•Δ 9:00 AM-5:00 PM - Preview of auction pieces for the 10th Annual Spring for Life Art Auction on Saturday. Free of charge, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland.

•Δ 6:00-7:30 - Festive Artists' Reception prior to 10th Annual Spring for Life Art Auction to benefit The AIDS Project. Tickets are \$25 and includes admission to auction. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland.

•Δ 8:00 - The 10th Annual Spring for Life Art Auction, Grand Ballroom, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. \$10 general admission includes a bidder's number.

Tom Saturley of Auction Properties Ltd., auctioneer.

•Δ 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

### Sunday, March 17:

•Δ Morning/afternoon: EMS sponsored Global Positioning System (GPS) 3 mile, easy walk over flat terrain. Pack a lunch, wear warm clothes and attempt to get lost! Limit 15 people. Call 207/772-3776.

•Δ 3:00-5:00 PM - Concord (NH) area PFLAG meeting. 1st Congregational Church, Washington & N. Main Sts., Concord, NH. FMI: 603/472-4944.

### Monday, March 18:

ΔΔ 6:00-8:00 PM - Southern Maine Pride Committee meeting. Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. All Welcome. FMI, 871-9940.

•Δ 7:00-8:00 PM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, USM Women's Center. FMI, Jana at 772-6599.

### Wednesday, March 20:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Drop-In and Open House at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

•Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - Women in Harmony choral group rehearsal, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI, 207/286-8016 or 207/885-0995.

### Thursday, March 21:

•Δ 7:30 PM - Nashua (NH) PFLAG meeting. Unitarian Universalist Church, corner Lowell & Canal Sts., Nashua, NH. FMI: 603/880-8709.

### Saturday, March 23:

•Δ 10:30-11:30 AM - Women's Empowerment 16-Step Group, Crossroads for Women. FMI, 207/892-2192.

Organization wishing to have their meetings and events published in the CPR calendar must submit them typed or clearly written, preferably one month prior to the event. Next deadline is February 29th.

To place a classified ad, type or neatly print your ad and send to CPR, 142 High St., #623, Portland, ME 04101. \$10/40 words, 15¢ per word over 40.



# Classifieds

## TRAVEL/VACATION

ΔΔ **LESBIAN PARADISE!** 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. **HIGHLANDS INN**, Box 1180P, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. ΔΔ

ΔΔ **YELLOW BIRCH FARM:** Romantic, seasonal cottage or year round studio on working organic farm in Down east Maine, 20 minutes from Eastport. Absolute peace and quiet. Beautiful, remote, unspoiled Cobscook Bay. B & B or weekly rental. Brochure, reservations: (207) 726-5807. ΔΔ  
ΔΔ **STONE WALL B & B:** Lovell, Maine. Country farmhouse in beautiful western mountains. Peaceful, private setting; Mt. Washington views. Spacious rooms/suites; all private baths/Jacuzzi. Near Sunday River, Shawnee Peak, X-C skiing. Gay-owned. Smoke-free. For reservations: 207/925-1080 or Out in ME @AOL.Com ΔΔ

ΔΔ **BACKPACKING,** Canoeing, X-Country skiing, Native American cultural trips, Teen trip. Wilderness skills and environmental awareness. Small groups, vegetarian food, all abilities. Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Maine, Newfoundland. Contact: Earth Treks, Dept. C, RR 2, Box 785, Montville, ME 04941. 800/589-4770.

ΔΔ **SPECKLED MTN. RANCH:** Bed and Breakfast-Ski or hoof it through miles of mountain trails. X-country skiing, snow-shoeing out back. Downhill skiing nearby. Summer horseback riding packages available. Call 207/836-2908, Bethel, Maine. ΔΔ

## PERSONALS

ΔΔ **SON/COMPANION** sought by GWM, 50s, into travel, health, arts, auctions, fleas, antiques, outdoors, rapport, kink, sex etc. Seek compatible young man to share good times. I'm healthy, sincere and understanding. No drugs or phonies. Ron, PO Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073. ΔΔ

ΔΔ **HIV+ SINGLES PUBLICATION:** Safe and confidential. Free copy, 36 word personal ad, voice mail, and mail forwarding! Local and nationwide! All life-styles. Gay, HIV+ owned and operated. Write: Intropoz+ Magazine, 564 Mission St., Box 415, San Francisco, CA 94105, or call 1-800-820-2948. ΔΔ

ΔΔ **ATTENTION Couple looking for bi/female roommate:** CPR has misplaced (ok--LOST) your contact phone number. Please call with info and we will run your ad next month. Our apologies. ΔΔ

## HELP WANTED

ΔΔ **CLEANERS WANTED:** Come join the Fresh-N-Up team. Looking for

person/s to work nights cleaning offices & common areas. Possible supervisory position may be available to right individual. Pay rate commensurate with experience. For more information, please call 207/926-4365. ΔΔ

ΔΔ **THE AIDS COALITION** of Lewiston-Auburn has 3 stipend positions for outreach workers to distribute safer sex kits and prevention information in the Lewiston-Auburn area. For more information, call Sean. 207/786-4697. ΔΔ

## SUPPORT GROUP

ΔΔ **TOWARDS A MORE POSITIVE IDENTITY:** Gay men's support group. Fred Wolf, STD, M.Div., and Chris Behan, MSW. \$45. Insurance reimbursable. Sliding scale fee possible. Individual and couples counseling also available. Call 207/773-6658, Family Institute of Maine, 38 Deering Street, Portland. ΔΔ

ΔΔ **55+ GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL Support Group.** Interested in getting together with others to talk about issues concerning older members in our community, sharing stories of our lives, or just to talk? Counseling student is starting a support group in this month for anyone 55+ interested in joining. FMI, 207/729-6959. ΔΔ

## ON-LINE SERVICE

ΔΔ **FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP** to new local on-line service. ABACUS has millions of files, over thirty on-line games, classified ads, restaurant reviews, events calendar, public and private messages, adults only areas, live chat, Internet E-Mail and more! FMI, call 207/781-7073. ΔΔ

## PRIDE '96 VENDORS

ΔΔ **Pride '96 Rally and Festival** is taking reservations and applications from VENDORS for food, crafts, t-shirts, jewelry, books, etc., etc. Call now at 207/773-7393 (Penny), to reserve your space and/or ask questions. Leave your name, telephone number and address. Come one, come all to the best & biggest Festival in our 10 year history. Non-profits encouraged to rent space at a nominal fee. ΔΔ

## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

ΔΔ **SPANISH LESSONS:** Affordable, private tutoring. Individuals or small groups. Chris Milliken 207/883-4802.

## FITNESS TRAINER

ΔΔ **PERSONAL FITNESS TRAINER** available. Male with ten years of experience in bodybuilding, fitness and nutrition. Reasonable rates. Call 207/934-1935 for appointment. ΔΔ

## CATALOG AVAILABLE

ΔΔ **SHOCKING GRAY** has just published a new catalog. Request one by calling 1-800-344-4729. ΔΔ

UNUM from page 7

## The Business Case for Diversity

An excerpt from **Diversity at UNUM America**, a full color brochure that describes UNUM's commitment to all it's employees.

Valuing Diversity is the right thing to do and it makes good business sense. Companies with the best records for promoting women and minorities, for example, out performed their peers in Standard & Poor's stock market index by a margin of 2.5 to 1, according to a 1993 study. The result is no surprise. These companies recruited from a larger universe of talent than their competitors, and their managers were more like their customers, helping them to connect to interests and preferences.

Additional business advantages spurred UNUM's interest in diversity. UNUM Corporation, the parent company of UNUM America, is an international corporation, working in countries from Japan to England and Singapore. This demands understanding different cultures, ideas and work styles. The ability to leverage many perspectives and talents gives a competitive edge in the global marketplace.

The U.S. marketplace also is one where diversity cannot be ignored. Between 1960 and 1990, the fastest-growing demographic group in the U.S. was Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, according to U.S. Census figures. African-Americans and Hispanic groups also are rapidly growing demographic segments. Collectively, these three groups account for half-trillion dollars in annual consumer spending. Companies that value diversity improve their ability to remain current with changes in the marketplace.

Other reasons for embracing diversity tie directly to UNUM America's business. Our company is the leading disability insurance carrier in North America. As disability risk managers, we know that most people with disabilities - like most people without disabilities - want to work. We have a keen interest in demonstrating the value of employing people with disabilities. We have an interest in fostering work environments that value and respect all people.

Our diversity efforts create value for employees, customers and shareholders. We're proud of the start we've made and expect even greater results. When diversity is viewed as a business asset there are no limits on achievement.

— Donna Mundy

Donna Mundy is senior vice president of External Affairs for UNUM Corporation, parent company of UNUM America. She has worked closely with the older workers affinity group at UNUM.

Mundy's article offers valuable information to the gay and business communities. As consumers, the sexual minorities represent millions of dollars of buying power in the U.S. alone. As employees we are a willing and able work force with more flexible time to devote to careers. As business owners we respect differences and are known for our attention to detail, customer service and creativity. We are most certainly part of the larger universe of talent that Mundy refers to in her article. The bottom line is Pride. As major corporations such as UNUM affirm the exist-



ence of sexual minorities, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people can be empowered and reach their potential. ΔΔ

## ZAVASNIK, from page 7

clergy. Divinity school may be on Zavasnik's agenda with two additional years of study resulting in another doctorate, this time in religion or ministry.

In summing up her experience as a therapist, Zavasnik said she "believes that people are strong and smart and that families function quite well most of the time. When a family or individual gets stuck and

asks for help, I will assist them in discovering stable and satisfying solutions."

In 1995, Zavasnik was elected to a two year term as President of the newly formed Rainbow Business & Professional Association. She has worked to expand the organization from an idea to a membership of approximately 80-100 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered business owners who meet bi-monthly to network.

## Pier Dance on February/March Pride Agenda

Pride's 2nd Pier Dance will be the primary topic on the Southern Maine Pride committee's agenda. The event will be held on the Maine State Pier again this year. June 15, 1996 will be Pride's 10th anniversary. With the support of the community, Pride '96 will affirm our lives and mark the progress that sexual diversity has made in Maine. The Pier Dance is Pride's major fundraiser, and after last year's success, the committee is gearing up to tackle

this year's extravaganza. People with ideas, those who wish to volunteer and talent willing to perform are all invited to attend the meetings scheduled for February 19 and March 18, both at 6:00 PM at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. For more information concerning Pride contact:

**Dance and General Info:**

879-7323 or 871-9940

**Vendors/merchandise:**

773-7393

**Parade volunteers/floats:**

878-0546

**PR and advertising:** 878-3755

**Interfaith service:** 878-9682



# COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

## GENERAL

**ML/GPA** is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

**Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)** promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our children and friends just the way they are! (See listings for Maine & New Hampshire under PHONE SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS.)

**Northern Lambda Nord** is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The Phoneline. Call 207/498-2088.

**The Matlovich Society** is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207/761-4380.

**National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter**, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 pm at the Community Counseling Ctr., 343 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call Perry Sutherland, 874-1030.

**HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS:** Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General -626-8844.

**Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR)**, New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info-line (603) 224-1686 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

**The Rainbow Business & Professional Association:** a statewide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI write P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207.775.0015 or e-mail wildboys@mainelink.net.

## MUSIC & ART

**Women In Harmony** is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send

SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 Sta. A, Portland, ME. 04101, or call 207/774-4940.

**Maine Gay Men's Chorus** is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-8099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

**The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League** will meet on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual artists community. FMI, call 775-3420.

## PHONE SUPPORT

### Region by region

**National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project:** 1-800-528-NCLR.

**Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY):** 1-800-347-TEEN.

**National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth:**

Call 1-800-347-TEEN, Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group. 7-10 pm Sunday to Thursday, 7 pm to midnight Friday and Saturday. Staffed & trained, peer (youth counselors. Confidential and anonymous. **New Hampshire:** Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095.

**Portland:**

**The AIDS Line:** 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

**DIAL KIDS:** 774-TALK. For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs.

**Ingraham Volunteers:** Call 774-HELP (774-4357).

**The AIDS Project:** 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

**Bangor:** Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

**Belfast:** Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

**Brunswick:** Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

**Bridgton:** Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 -

**Rumford:** Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

**Lewiston:** Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697

**Waterville:** Dayspring: 626-3432

**Ellsworth:** Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

**Oxford Hills:** Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451.

**Mid coast:** Gay men's HELP LINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F. 207/863-2728, FAX, 207/863-2794. Also, gay youth info.

### Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG)

#### Contacts in Maine

(\* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349

\*Bangor/Brewer: 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519

\*Oakland: Steve, 465-3870

\*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789

\*Portland: Rita, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441

Waldoboro: 832-5859

#### Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline:

603/623-6023

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Manchester: Hans & Lin, 603/668-0741

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francestown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Hanover: Shirley/Tom, 603/643-8331

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

**DOVER, NH:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for info, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### Medical Support

**Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic:** Confidential screening and treatment for STD's for residents and non-residents at a walk-in-clinic. Low cost, medicaid accepted. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs., 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 303. FMI call 874-8784.

**Planned Parenthood of Northern New England:** Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms!), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 874-1095.

**FREE FAMILY THERAPY** available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 773-6658.

### Identity Support

#### New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

**Concord:** Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Streets. (use Washington St. entrance), FMI call 603/472-4944.

**Seacoast:** Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emory Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 circle), FMI call 603/772-5196.

**Monadnock Region:** Meets 4th Monday from 7-8:30 pm at The Place to Go, 46 Concord St., Peterborough, FMI call 603/547-2545 or 603/623-6023.

**Nashua:** Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Church, Lowell & Canal Streets., FMI call 603/880-0910.

**Plymouth:** Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI, call 603/968-7254 or 603/786-9812.

**Upper Valley Region:** Meets second Wednesday, 7 pm. Hanover. FMI, call 603/643-8331.

#### Maine P-FLAG Meetings

**Portland:** Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 PM at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. FMI, 766-5158 or 774-3441.

**Women's Center - Belfast** - Weekly meetings, 9A Main St., 2nd floor (above Jaret & Cohn) FMI, 338-5702. Group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7-9 pm.

**NA: Just for Today** meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 pm, at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance in rear. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 pm, Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St., Use entrance off Deering St.

**Out and About** - a lesbian support and educational group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm., United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth, NH. FMI: POB 5691, Portsmouth, NH 03902, or 603/772-8045.

**Out Among Friends:** Lesbian social/discussion group. Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7-8:30 pm, in the downstairs club room of the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. \$1 donation. Contact phone: 207/879-1037.

**Out on MDI:** For gays, lesbians, bi's and our friends. Very active social/support group. Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, write OUT ON MDI, PO Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679-0367 or call (207) 288-2502 and leave a message.

**Am Chofshi:** A Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish support group, meets monthly. FMI call Rheatha at 874-2970.

**Exeter Congregational Church:** United Church of Christ in Exeter, NH welcomes all God's children to worship, Sundays, 10 a.m. 21 Front St. (near Court St.) Co-pastors the Revs. Michael L.C. Henderson & Jane Geffken Henderson. FMI, call Ingrid, 603/772-6221.

**Dignity, Etc.:** Supportive worship for l/g/b/t Catholics, every third Sunday, 6:00 pm at St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), 143 State St., Portland. (Across from Mercy Hospital). Coffee and dessert follow service. FMI: Dignity, PO Box 5301, Portland 04101. Call Rosemary & Janet: 207/646-2820, Laurie: 207/878-0546, Glenn: 207/878-9682.

**The Appollo Society:** an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI, 773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

**Community of Hope:** A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. POB 1671, Portland, ME 041014.

**Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group:** Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm. FMI call 622-1888 or 622-4254.

**Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group:** 1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey, (207) 594-2957.

**W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women):** Social group meeting monthly for outdoor recreational activities followed by pot lucks. Activities include skiing, skating, sliding and other seasonal outdoor fun. FMI: Jen @ 207/787-2379 or 207/780-8535.

**Q-Squad:** Support group for lesbian, gays, bisexuals, & transgendereds. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message, (207) 778-7380.

**TransSupport Group:** For crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, & others interested in transgenderism. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education & social activities. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112.

**Gender Talk North:** P.O. Box 211, Keene, NH 03431.

**Trans Counseling:** Cheshire Counseling Assoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. 603/357-5544.

**Maine Bisexual People's Network:** Meets to affirm in all a positive nature of bisexuality & work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support & referrals available. FMI write P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME. 04104.



**Polyamorous Life Support (PALS):** Do you love more than one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating/nourishing committed, loving, multipartner relationships. Whether curious or already multiply intimate, call 773-6132 FMI.

**Wilde-Stein Club:** Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

**Prisoners of Gender:** (Refusing to be Barbie, Ken or both). Meets every Friday at 1:15 pm at Davis Room, Memorial Union, UM at Orono.

**Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group:** Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call (207) 581-1425.

**Seacoast Gay Men:** Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

**Dover, NH:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered support Group meets Sundays 7-8pm, Quaker Mtg. House, Central Ave. Social times too. FMI, 603/743-GAY2 eves.

**Lewiston/Auburn:** A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring St., Auburn.

**Bangor Lesbian Support Group:** This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: (207) 947-5337.

**Mountain Valley Men (MVM):** A group of gay men of all ages in the western Maine, Eastern NH area who get together for pot luck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207/925-1034.

**S.N.A.P.:** Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. Monthly support group for men & women healing from sexual abuse by clergy of any denomination. Meets in Portland location on third Friday of the month. FMI, call 207/774-5025.

**DEGLO (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org.)** Meets 2nd Saturday of the month, 5:30 pm at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor.

**Men's Discussion Group:** 7:00 pm, fourth Saturday every month, St. James Episcopal

Church, Center & Main Streets, Old Town.

**Lavender Womyn:** a gathering of lesbian, bisexual and questioning women for discussion and mutual support. Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM. First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., Auburn. FMI, 207/783-0461.

### Parents

**Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group:** For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

**Mothers and Kids Group:** Social events and group support for lesbians and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04116.

### Youth Support

**OUTRIGHT TOO:** Sundays, 6pm at Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Harlow St., Bangor. Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual youth ages 16-22. FMI, call 207/947-5393.

**OUTRIGHT/Central Maine:** Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call "First Call" at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

**OUTRIGHT/Portland:** Meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 pm at The People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe and supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

**OUTRIGHT/Seacoast:** Meets every Friday from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call 603/431-1013 or write P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

**COLAGE:** A national support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI, COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #165, Dept. P, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**THE MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL:** Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. Call 207/775-4944 for information on the council and sub-committees. There is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds.

### HIV Related Support Meetings

#### Portland:

**Mondays:** People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

**Tuesdays:** People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, and

caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon.

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays:** Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

**1st Wednesday:** PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.

**Thursdays:** People living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm.

**2nd Thursday:** Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm. *The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.*

**Auburn:** People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn office, 783-4301.

**Augusta:** Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm, Dayspring AIDS Support Services offers support for people with HIV & those who care about them. FMI, call 207/626-3435.

**Biddeford:** People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 774-6877.

**Brunswick:** Meetings for family and friends who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI on meeting days and times call 725-4955.

**Farmington:** Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm. HIV+ support group. Call Christie Foster at Tri-County Health Services, 778-4553, for location.

**Gardiner:** 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the Physicians Building behind KVRHA Annex. Call MASS at 725-4955.

**Rumford/Mexico Area:** Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

#### New Hampshire:

**EXETER - "Connections,"** support group for care-givers: parents, families, friends-all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, meets second Tuesday from 7-8:30 pm. Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front St., Discussions, info, sharing and support. Confidentiality assured. Wheelchair access. FMI, 603/772-6221 or 603/778-0102.

### Maine AIDS Alliance

#### Member Organizations

**AIDS Lodging House:** P.O. Box 3820, Portland, ME 04101-3820, Call 874-1000.

**AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn:** P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, Maine 04243-7977. Call 786-4697.

**Community AIDS Awareness Program:** c/o Mexico Cong. Church/UCC, 43 Main St., Mexico, ME 04257. Call 364-8603.

**Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.:** P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04055. Call 583-6608.

**Dayspring:** 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 626-3432.

**Down East AIDS Network:** 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 667-3506.

**Eastern Maine AIDS Network:** P.O. Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 990-3626.

**Merrymeeting AIDS Support Serv.:** P.O. Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Call 725-4955.

**Names Project/Maine:** P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 774-2198.

**Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network:** P.O. Box 113, Paris, ME 04271-0113. Call 743-7451.

**Peabody House:** 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102. Call 774-6281.

**People With AIDS Coalition of ME.:** 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

**Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS)** 142 Congress Street, Portland ME 04101. Call 775-PAWS.

**St. John Valley AIDS Task Force:** c/o NMMC, 143 E. Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. Call 834-3355.

**The AIDS Project:** 142 High St., 6th fl., Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-6877.

**Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition:** P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 338-1427.

#### Online Resources for Maine's LGBT Community

#### The Maine Gay Network

#### △The Maine GayNet Mail List:

Share your ideas and opinions or just plain chat with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to [majordomo@abacus.oxy.edu](mailto:majordomo@abacus.oxy.edu). In the message part, write "subscribe me-gaynet."

#### △The Maine GayNet Home Page:

An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. The complete text of CPR available online, too. Point your WEB Browser at: <http://www.qrd.org/QRD/www/usa/maine> FMI, e-mail Paula Stockholm: [paula@maine.com](mailto:paula@maine.com) △△

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### CURTIS from page 1

of many well known and up-and-coming singer-songwriters.

Catie Curtis has a pure, warm and dynamic singing voice. Her songs are honest, story-like and are glazed with that certain edge of emotion that make them worthwhile. She doesn't mask her feelings with fancy words and mysterious symbolism. You can hear each song and know what she's talking about because in many cases, you've been there.

"I'm not radical when I kiss you, and I don't love you to make a point," says Curtis in the song "Radical" off of the "Truth from Lies" al-

bum.

Catie Curtis seems to have her feet firmly planted in the world of singer-songwriters. This is a world that continues to grow and encompass more people. If you've got a taste for powerful lyrics and an equally impressive voice, then I suggest picking up a Catie Curtis album. Although, and I say this with a frown, I was unable to see her at her recent Portland appearance, word has it her live show is one not to be missed. So next time she comes around, let's be sure not to have other commitments keep us from Catie.

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